

# PUBLIC SERVICE & POLITICS



The Local Hatch Act establishes restrictions on the political activity of D.C. government employees. Political activity is any activity that is regulated by the District and directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office, partisan political group, ballot initiative, or referendum.

## **PERMITTED POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

**While off duty and away from work, employees MAY:**

- ▶ Take an active part in political management or in political campaigns, including working on or managing a campaign
- ▶ Work as a campaign volunteer
- ▶ Distribute campaign literature or nominating petitions
- ▶ Sign nominating petitions
- ▶ Hold office or be a member in a political club, party, or committee
- ▶ Attend political rallies, meetings, and fundraisers
- ▶ Assist with a voter registration drive
- ▶ Contribute money to political campaigns, political parties, or partisan political groups.
- ▶ Host a meet & greet
- ▶ Follow, like, or comment on the social media pages of a candidate for partisan office, political party, or partisan group (not a fundraising page partisan District candidate)
- ▶ Display campaign signs at home
- ▶ File as a candidate for Advisory Neighbor Commissioner
- ▶ Run for partisan political office outside of the District
- ▶ Express opinions about candidates and issues

## **PROHIBITED POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

### **While off duty and away from work, employees MAY NOT:**

- ▶ Use your official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election
- ▶ Fundraise for a partisan District regulated election
- ▶ File as a candidate for D.C. Council member, Attorney General, Mayor, or Shadow Senator
- ▶ Solicit or discourage the political activity of any person with business before the District
- ▶ Host, invite, or sell tickets to a political fundraiser for a political party, candidate for partisan political office, or partisan political group that is regulated by the District
- ▶ Give a speech that encourages political contributions
- ▶ Use any e-mail account or social media to send or forward content that solicits political contributions for District partisan elections
- ▶ Coerce, explicitly or implicitly, any subordinate employee to engage in political activity.

### **While on duty, in the workplace, wearing a uniform or official insignia, or in a government vehicle, employees MAY NOT:**

- ▶ Distribute or display campaign materials or items
- ▶ Engage in conduct that advocates for or against a partisan political party, candidate for partisan political office, partisan political group, ballot initiative or referendum
- ▶ Perform campaign related duties or tasks or use government resources to support campaign activity
- ▶ Wear or display partisan political buttons, t-shirts, or signs
- ▶ Make a political contribution or fundraise
- ▶ Post a comment to a blog or a social media site that advocates political activity
- ▶ Use any e-mail account or social media to distribute, send, or forward content supports or opposes a partisan political candidate, group, or party