

ETHICS AT A GLANCE

Political Campaigns - Can I volunteer?



As a state employee, you can volunteer for a political campaign. Just remember to follow a few important rules.



Overview

State employees may volunteer for political campaigns provided they follow the state ethics laws. Under Civil Service Law § 107, state offices may not be used for soliciting or collecting any political contributions. State officers and employees, and prospective employees, may not be questioned or asked about their political affiliation, if they made any political contributions, or how they voted. No person can use his or her official state position to coerce, intimidate, or influence other state officers or employees for any political purpose, action or contribution, or interfere with any election.

The following political activities would violate the Code of Ethics in Public Officers Law § 74:

- Circulating a candidate's nominating or designating petition within your office;
- Printing or copying campaign materials using a work printer/copier;
- Using your work computer (laptop or office) to produce campaign literature in support of or in opposition to a candidate or a ballot question; or
- Using state internet connections or accounts to forward e-mail messages received from an electoral campaign, or someone supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot initiative, or send campaign emails.

[More information on political activity for state officers and employees is available on COELIG's website.](#)

Questions?

Contact us by calling 1-800-87-ETHICS (3-8442) or by e-mail at GUIDANCE@ETHICS.NY.GOV.

All guidance communications with COELIG are confidential.

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