



City of Atlanta Ethics Office

ETHICS IN ACTION: Political Campaigns and Use of City Property

The election season is near, and to assist elected officials, employees, and candidates for municipal office, the Ethics Office has established guidelines on the use of city property during political campaigns.



Political Campaigns and Use of City Property FAQ's

Can city employees donate money to campaigns or are there restrictions?

City employees are not prohibited from making personal financial contributions to political campaigns. However, they should not use their official authority or position to interfere with or attempt to affect the outcome of any election for city office. Soliciting political contributions or election campaign services from fellow city employees, city contractors or vendors during city work hours or using city property is strictly prohibited.

Can city employees attend campaign events?

Yes, city employees may attend political campaign events, such as fundraisers and rallies. If they decide to attend during their work hours, they must use personal time.

Can city employees work for campaigns? What are the parameters?

City employees may work on political campaigns, provided they do so outside of their official work hours and without using city resources. They should not engage in political activities during their regular work hours, on work premises, use city resources to create campaign materials, or use their official positions to influence election outcomes.

Are city employees prohibited from wearing campaign-related attire?

The Ethics Code does not prohibit city employees from wearing campaign-related attire (other city laws may restrict this attire). However, they should refrain from “advocating” for a particular candidate at work. The Ethics Office recommends that city employees wear campaign-related attire on their personal time and not at work.

Can city employees attend campaign-related events wearing clothing that identifies them as city employees?

City employees are prohibited from wearing an official city uniform or clothing with the city seal visible. Attending campaign-related events in city attire may appear as an official endorsement from the city. City employees may participate in political processes as private citizens but should maintain the integrity of public service.

Can city employees use social media to advocate for a political campaign or candidate?

City employees may use their personal social media to advocate for political candidates. City of Atlanta social media accounts should not be used for campaigning or to promote a particular candidate.

For specific situations or further clarification, employees should contact the City of Atlanta's Ethics Office for advice.

The Ethics Advisory on
Use of City Property during Political Campaigns,
addresses key rules to consider as the campaign
season begins.

Click on the image below to view the Ethics Advisory



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