
TITLE:	Political Activity/Campaign Guidelines
NUMBER:	1080
AUTHORIZED BY PRESIDENT:	1/1/89

The following guidelines are submitted to assist you in staying within the rules and regulations of the Public Disclosure Commission and state law. It is particularly important that those who exercise the constitutional/statutory post-audit role be in compliance. At the same time it is important that all concerned know their rights in this important area.

RCW 41.06.250 (Civil Service Law) and RCW 42.17.130 (Open Government Law) cover the area of "political activities." RCW 41.06.250 contains three basic points.

1. Solicitation for or payment to any partisan political organization or for any partisan, political purpose of any compulsory assessment or involuntary contribution is prohibited.
2. No person shall solicit on state property or property of a political subdivision of this state any contribution to be used for partisan, political purposes.
3. Employees of the state shall have the right to vote and to express their opinions on all political subjects and candidates and to hold any political party office or participate in the management of a partisan, political campaign.

RCW 42.17.130 also prohibits, in general terms, the use of any public property, facilities, or money to assist or oppose any candidate or ballot proposition.

In summary, the following is a list of "can's" and "cannots".

An employee may not:

1. On a compulsory basis, solicit involuntary assessments or contributions for a partisan political purpose, on or off campus
2. Solicit political contributions on state or local government property
3. Solicit political contributions on state time (while working regular hours)
4. Campaign on state time (while working regular hours)
5. Carry or display political materials or stickers in or on state cars
6. Use the state or local government phones and SCAN lines for campaign purposes or solicitation of funds

