



# Medina County Policy Manual



Policy: <b>Political Activity</b>	Section: <b>Work Rules</b>	Number: <b>7.055</b>
Issued: <b>09/17/07</b>	Reviewed/Revised:	Page #: <b>1 of 2</b>

ORC 124.57

OAC 123-:1-46-02

Employees with questions as to the appropriateness of specific political activity after reading this policy are encouraged to contact their department director who, in-turn, will obtain an opinion from the Prosecutor's Office.

## **A. Classified employees are prohibited from participating in partisan political activities.**

1. "Political activity" and "politics" generally refer to partisan activities, campaigns, and elections involving primaries, partisan ballots or partisan candidates.
2. "Classified service" generally means all persons in active pay status in the county, whether in certified or provisional status. Unless specifically exempted from the classified service in accordance with the Revised Code, i.e., ORC 4117, governing *Public Employees Collective Bargaining*, or ORC 124.11, governing *Classified and Unclassified Service*, an employee shall generally be considered to be in the classified service for purposes of this rule.

## **B. Political activities permitted to classified employees**

The following are examples of permissible activities for classified employees:

1. Registering and voting;
2. Expressing opinions, either orally or in writing;
3. Making voluntary financial contributions to political candidates or organizations;
4. Circulating non-partisan petitions or petitions stating views on legislation;
5. Attending political rallies;
6. Signing nominating petitions in support of individuals;
7. Displaying political stickers, badges, and buttons on their cars or person; and
8. Serving as a precinct election official under ORC 3501.22.

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### C. Political Activities Prohibited to Classified Employees

The following are examples of prohibited activities for classified employees:

1. Participating in a partisan election as a candidate for office;
2. Declaring candidacy for an elected office that is filled by partisan election or through the circulation of nominating petitions identified with a political party;
3. Circulating official nominating petitions for any candidate for office filled by partisan election;
4. Holding an elected or appointed office in any partisan political organization;
5. Accepting a party-sponsored appointment to any office normally filled by partisan election;
6. Campaigning by writing for publications, by distributing political material, or by making speeches on behalf of a candidate for partisan elective office;
7. Soliciting, either directly or indirectly, any assessment, contribution, or subscription for any party or candidate for partisan office;
8. Soliciting the sale or selling political party tickets, materials, or other political matter;
9. Engaging in partisan political activities at the polls, such as soliciting votes for other than non-partisan candidates and non-partisan issues;
10. Engaging in political caucuses of a partisan nature;
11. Servicing as a witness or challenger for any party or partisan committee;
12. Participating in a political action committee which supports partisan activity.