

# PARTICIPATING IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

## ON-DUTY ACTIVITIES

**In what political activities may an employee participate when on duty?**

- None. Federal employees (except Senate-confirmed Presidential appointees) may not engage in partisan political activities while on Government premises or when on duty.

**What other limits apply regarding political activities while at work?**

- Federal employees *may not*:
  - use Government property for political purposes, including use of Government equipment to send political e-mails;
  - use a Government position or influence to interfere with an election or to coerce any person to participate in a political activity;
  - wear a political button on duty;
  - display a partisan banner, sign, sticker, or poster in a Federal office; or
  - consider political affiliation or political activity with regard to a personnel action (except with regard to Schedule C employees and non-career SES appointments).

## OFF-DUTY ACTIVITIES

**Are there any restrictions on an employee's political activities when off duty and off Federal premises?**

- Yes. Federal employees are barred, even when not on duty, from:
  - soliciting, receiving, or accepting campaign funds (such as by hosting a fund-raiser or asking for contributions by telephone or in a speech) and
  - running for office in a partisan election (except as an independent in local races in some areas, such as the Washington, D.C. suburbs).(However, these off-duty restrictions do not apply to employees serving 130 days or less or intermittent employees.)

**Are these the only restrictions on Federal employees?**

- No. Career members of the SES, NOAA Corps officers, and administrative law judges are also barred from any active participation in a partisan political campaign (including stuffing envelopes or soliciting votes by telephone) and from serving as an officer in a political organization.

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**A WORD ABOUT ETHICS**