

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

General Dos And Don'ts

Examples of activities in which faculty, staff, and students **may engage personally as individuals on their own time**, provided they do not use university resources and do not say or imply they are acting on behalf of FIU:

- Donating money on the university campus to support or oppose a political candidate or ballot initiative.
- Serving as a volunteer by writing letters, making phone calls, knocking on doors, or distributing flyers in support of or opposition to a political candidate or ballot initiative.
- Organizing or attending rallies in support of or opposition to a political candidate or ballot initiative.
- Writing letters to the editor or op-ed pieces supporting or opposing a political candidate or ballot initiative.
- Giving speeches and participating in debates for or against a political candidate or ballot initiative.
- Writing to elected officials to express personal opinions on a political candidate or ballot initiative.
- Renting FIU facilities for campaign-related events, on the same terms available to any member of the public under applicable use policies for that facility, **provided that campaign fundraising may not occur.**

These activities should occur on your own time. For activities occurring during your working hours, follow your department's procedure to request leave. Vacation, and/or compensatory leave, or time off without pay must be requested and approved in advance of the event. Activities may be scheduled during your lunch break without the need for taking leave.

Moreover, you should not use your official FIU title when engaging in the above political activity. If your FIU title will be used, then you must include the following disclaimer:

"I include my FIU title(s) for informational purposes only. This is not an endorsement by Florida International University and should not be construed as such."

Examples of activities in which faculty, staff, and students may generally engage in under the law, even if public resources are used:

- Conducting scholarly research on the effects of a ballot initiative or political issue on FIU, the state, the economy, etc.
- Disseminating the results of scholarly research on a ballot initiative or political issue in academic journals.
- Planning and holding academic conferences, forums, symposiums, or panel discussions, or inviting guest speakers (including, in some circumstances, candidates), to discuss campaign-related issues (must not be to influence a vote in an election). When holding these types of events, including virtual events, voting and civic participation may be encouraged, but the events may not be to favor one candidate over another.
- Renting FIU facilities to outside parties or university organizations for campaign-related events, under applicable use policies, and subject to the usual charge for that facility, provided that campaign fundraising may not occur. (See also General Guidelines for Public Officials Visiting a Florida International University Campus for Nonpartisan Events or Functions Sponsored/Hosted by Florida International University).

Faculty, staff, and students cannot, however, use public resources to engage in political activities for or against a candidate or ballot initiative. Here are some examples of political activities that use public resources and thus are **generally not permitted** under Florida Law:

- Soliciting or accepting political contributions in an FIU facility.
- Sending out a campaign mailing using university stationery or postage purchased by the university.
- Using an official FIU email list or listserv to campaign for or against a political candidate or ballot initiative.
- Using FIU equipment to copy material supporting or opposing a political candidate or ballot initiative.
- Using FIU's email system and online platforms to support or oppose a political candidate or ballot initiative, subject to FIU's de minimis personal use exception.
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- Conducting a political campaign or campaigning in favor of a ballot referendum from a FIU office or other FIU facility, or otherwise using FIU resources, such as a FIU-provided telephone, computer, e-mail address, social media account, etc., to conduct such a campaign.
- Campaigning in the name of FIU or purporting to speak on behalf of FIU when supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot initiative, whether in speech, writings, or social media postings.