

Employees of the Federal government occupy positions of public trust and should be responsive to community interest. Registering and voting is a privilege that should be exercised by all citizens. The Hatch Act guarantees to Federal employees the right to do so free from any interference, persuasion, or official domination. They should be informed as to permissible political activities as well as those restricted by the Hatch Act.

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

Civilian employees are permitted to:

- register and vote in any election,
- express an opinion as an individual citizen privately and publicly on political subjects and candidates,
- be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections,
- assist in voter registration drives,
- contribute money to political organizations,
- attend political fundraising functions,
- sign a political petition as an individual citizen,
- attend and be active at political rallies and meetings,
- take an active part, as a candidate or in support of a candidate, in a nonpartisan election
- campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, or municipal ordinances, unless you are an employee of the National Security Agency; an employee of the Defense Intelligence Agency; a career member of the senior executive service; an administrative law judge or a contract appeals board member,
- serve as an election judge or clerk, or in a similar position to perform nonpartisan duties as prescribed by State or local law;
- campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections,
- make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections,
- distribute campaign literature in partisan elections,
- hold office in political clubs or parties

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Civilian employees may not:

- use official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election,
- collect political contributions, unless both the collector and the donor are members of the same Federal labor organization or employee organization and the donor is not a subordinate,
- knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business with the DOE,
- engage in political activity while on duty,
- engage in political activity while in any Federal workplace,
- engage in political activity while wearing an official uniform or displaying official insignia identifying the office or position of the DOE employee,
- engage in political activity while using a government-owned or leased vehicle,
- solicit political contributions from the general public,
- be a candidate for public office in partisan elections,
- wear political buttons on duty.