



AP 7370 POLITICAL ACTIVITY

References:

Education Code Sections 7050 et seq.

It is the intent and purpose in enacting these procedures to allow employees their lawful privilege of political freedom and activity, but to ensure that political activities are not engaged in during normal duty hours and normal duty assignments. The District has a reasonable obligation to make certain that personnel are aware of their political rights and can exercise those rights, but at the same time, to ensure that its employees do not wrongfully use their duty hours or District facilities for political purposes.

District resources may be used to provide information to the public about the possible effects of a bond issue or other pertinent ballot measure if both the following conditions are met:

- The informational activities are otherwise authorized by the Constitution or laws of the State of California; and
- The information provided constitutes a fair and impartial presentation of relevant facts to aid the electorate in reaching an informed judgment regarding the bond issue or ballot measure.

Board members or administrators may appear in their official capacity before a citizens' group that requests the appearance to discuss the reasons why the Board called an election to submit to the voters a proposition for the issuance of bonds, and to respond to inquiries from the citizens' group.

An officer or employee of the District may solicit or receive political funds or contributions to promote the support or defeat of a ballot measure that would affect the rate of pay, hours of work, retirement, civil service, or other working conditions of officers or employees of the District. Such activities are prohibited during working hours, and entry into buildings and grounds of the District during working hours is prohibited. However, such activities are permitted during nonworking time. "Nonworking time" means time outside an employees' working hours, whether before or after the work day or during the employees' lunch period or other breaks during the day.

Prohibited activity shall include but is not limited to soliciting money, influence, service, or any other item of value to aid, promote or defeat any political committee or the nomination or election of any person to public office. No person shall attempt to coerce, command, or require a person holding or applying for any position, office, or employment with the District to influence or give money, service, or other item of value to aid, promote, or defeat the nomination or election of any person to public office.

Subject to all of the foregoing, any employee may seek appointment or election to any public position, office, or employment for which he/she is qualified. An employee who is elected to a political office, the duties of which will clearly conflict with his/her normal duty



hours and assignment with the District, may request an unpaid leave of absence which shall commence on the date he/she assumes the office and shall terminate not later than 30 days after his/her last day in office. Reelection to the same office or election to a different office which provides reasonable continuity of elected public service shall cause extension of the approved leave.

Date Approved: September 18, 2015