

# SCIOTO COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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## POLICY 3.04.18 POLITICAL ACTIVITY

(ORC 124.57 & 5126.0222; OAC 123:1-46-02)

- A. Classified employees of the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities may not engage in political activity during working hours or on county property.
- B. 'Political Activity' and 'Politics' for the purposes of this policy refers to partisan activities, campaigns and elections involving primaries, partisan ballots or partisan candidates.
- C. Political activities prohibited to classified employees include:
  - 1. Participating in a partisan election as a candidate for office;
  - 2. Candidacy for public office in a nonpartisan general election, if the nomination to candidacy was obtained in a partisan primary or through the circulation of nominating petitions identified with a political party;
  - 3. Filing petitions meeting statutory requirements for partisan candidacy to elective office;
  - 4. Circulating official nominating petitions for any candidate for an office filled by partisan election;
  - 5. Holding an elective or appointed office in any partisan political organization;
  - 6. Accepting a party-sponsored appointment to any office normally filled by partisan election;
  - 7. Campaigning by writing for publications, by distributing political material, or by making speeches on behalf of a candidate for partisan elective office, when such activities are directed toward party success;
  - 8. Soliciting, either directly or indirectly, an assessment, contribution or subscription, either monetary or in-kind for any party or candidate for partisan election;
  - 9. Soliciting the sale, or actual sale of political party tickets;
  - 10. Engaging in partisan political activities at the polls, such as soliciting votes for other than nonpartisan candidates and nonpartisan issues;
  - 11. Service as witness or challenger for any party or partisan committee;
  - 12. Participation in political caucuses of a partisan nature; and

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13. Participation in a political action committee which supports partisan activity.
- C. Political activities permitted to classified employees include:
1. Registering and voting;
  2. Expressing opinions, either orally or in writing;
  3. Making voluntary financial contributions to political candidates;
  4. Circulating petitions on legislation related to their employment;
  5. Attending political rallies;
  6. Signing nominating petitions in support of individuals;
  7. Displaying political stickers, badges and buttons on their cars or persons; and
  8. Serving as a precinct election official under 3501.22 of the ORC.
  9. Notwithstanding any provision of the ORC to the contrary, including applicable provisions of sections 102.03, 102.04, 2921.42 and 2921.43, an employee of a County Board may also be a member of the governing board of a political subdivision, including a school district board of education, or an agency that does not provide specializes services as defined in ORC 5123.081. Certain contracting restrictions apply.
- D. Employees may not utilize Board vehicles, equipment, supplies or facilities to influence the outcome of an election or to further the cause of a political party or candidate.
- E. Because the Agency receives federal funds, Board employees' political activity is regulated by the Federal Hatch Act as it relates to state and local public employees and no federal funds may be used by any employee on behalf of partisan politics.
- F. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including discharge from employment.