

POLICY TITLE: PUBLIC AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Political Activity - Staff Participation

The Board recognizes its individual employees' rights of citizenship, including, but not limited to, engaging in political activities. An employee of the District may seek an elective office, or advocate for or against a political candidate or ballot measure, provided that the staff member does not campaign during instructional times or while they are responsible for other duties, or while they are in settings where they are likely to have contact with students; and provided all other legal requirements are met. "Ballot measure" includes, but is not limited to, bond or levy elections.

No person may attempt to coerce, command, or require a public employee to support or oppose any political committee, the nomination or election of any person to public office, or the passage of a ballot issue.

The District shall not restrict constitutionally protected political speech of employees during non-instructional times in non-student contact settings, such as during duty-free periods in faculty break rooms and lounges during the school day or during afterschool events. Nothing in this section is intended to restrict the right of a District employee to express his or her personal constitutionally protected political views.

No District employee may use public facilities, equipment, including, but not limited to, telephones, fax machines, copy machines, computers, e-mail, etc., or supplies, including, but not limited to, paper clips, staples, pens, pencils, paper, envelopes, tape, etc., that are purchased with public funds for election or political campaigns, private or charitable organizations or foundations, or ballot issues.

No District employee may work on election, political campaigns, ballot issues, or issues dealing with private or charitable organizations or foundations during the work day.

Every citizen has the right to run for public office. Administrative and teaching staffs of Idaho Public Schools and Universities are not prohibited from seeking elective office (Idaho Code 67-5311 and 67-5303). Therefore, this Board shall not prevent or discriminate against any employee should that person choose to run for any public office.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

Idaho Code 67-5311; 67-5303
5 USC 7321, et seq. Hatch Act
I.C. § 74-601 Public Integrity in Elections Act

Idaho Constitution Article III, Section 1

POLICY HISTORY:

Adopted: 1992, Revised and adopted 8/20/2012
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January 19, 2022.