



07.03.01.D1 Political Events

Approved: June 28, 2010
Revised: March 3, 2017
Next Scheduled Review: March 3, 2020

Rule Statement

As a state supported institution of higher education, Texas A&M University-Central Texas (A&M-Central Texas) remains neutral in political activities. Individual faculty, staff and students continue to enjoy the constitutional rights and privileges concerning freedom of speech and participation in political events, subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions.

Reason for Rule

This rule provides guidelines for the use of A&M-Central Texas property for political activity.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS

1.1 A&M-Central Texas cannot endorse, support or promote any political candidate (either incumbents or new office seekers, members of their staffs, or their campaign representatives) or any partisan political activity. Furthermore, it is the intent and expectation of A&M-Central Texas that all faculty, staff, and students avoid any behavior that could reasonably be interpreted as official university endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities. Nothing in these rules should be construed to limit the right or ability of any member of the university community to express personal opinion in accordance with System Policy 07.03 *Conflicts of Interest, Dual Office Holding and Political Activities*, or to exercise his or her right to engage in political activities outside his or her official capacity or affiliation with the university, within the limits of System Policy 07.01 *Ethics*.

2. VISITS BY CURRENT POLITICAL OFFICE HOLDERS

2.1 In any circumstance where the nature of a current political office holder's visit to the campus is unclear, the President or designee will request a written statement from the sponsoring campus organization that clarifies the nature of the visit. If any activity during the visit involves the endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities, the university is bound by the provisions of this rule. If, however, all activities relate strictly to the person's official duties in their current office,

this rule is not applicable. Exceptions to this provision must be approved by the Chairman of the Board of Regents.

3. USE OF UNIVERSITY FUNDS, SERVICES, OR FACILITIES

3.1 Any individual, university organization, or political party desiring to use A&M-Central Texas facilities for campaign or related political events must make a formal request to the Office of the President. The use of A&M-Central Texas facilities may require a rental fee. All requests that can be reasonably and safely accommodated without detracting from the purpose and operations of the university will be approved. Non-institutionally affiliated entities will not be discriminated against on the basis of political viewpoint.

3.2 Student, faculty, or staff organizations that have been officially recognized and/or approved by A&M-Central Texas will be required to go through established procedures for the reservation of facilities after receiving approval from the President.

4. DISCLAIMER STATEMENTS

4.1 A&M-Central Texas reserves the right to require that a statement be made prior to the presentation of any speaker that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the institution or the sponsoring group.

4.2 Should A&M-Central Texas property or facilities be approved for use by political candidates or parties, a sign with the following statement must be displayed near the event:

“University policy requires that A&M-Central Texas remains neutral in political activities. The use of A&M-Central Texas facilities and property by candidates and political organizations does not imply or indicate support for any candidate or political party.”

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

System Policy [07.01 Ethics](#)

System Policy [07.03 Conflicts of Interest, Dual Office Holding and Political Events](#)

System Regulation [07.03.01 Political Campaign Events on Property Under the Control of The Texas A&M University System](#)

Contact Office

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