Title: Political Activity  
Number: 2.1.4  
Contact Person’s Title: Human Resources Manager  
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References:  
  - RCW 42.52  
  - RCW 41.06.250  
  - RCW 42.17.130  
Approved: Cindi Holmstrom, Director  
Supersedes: Policy 2.1.4 issued December 22, 1998

The State Ethics and Civil Service laws forbid any campaign activity during working hours. This includes but is not limited to such activities as:

- Any use of state owned facilities for campaign purposes.
- Any campaign activity in state buildings and offices.
- Solicitation of funds for campaign purposes on state property.
- Coercing, or attempting to coerce any other state employees to give, lend, or contribute anything of value to political campaigns.

Additionally, the Department prohibits the wearing or displaying of political campaign buttons and paraphernalia during working hours.

These restrictions apply to election campaigns for partisan and nonpartisan office and to initiatives and ballot issues. These restrictions also apply to lobbying a measure before the legislature, unless lobbying is an official part of an employee’s assigned duties.

A state officer or state employee with authority to direct, control or influence the actions of another officer or employee will not knowingly acquiesce in the other officer’s or employee’s use of public resources for a political campaign.

Employees may run for any public office, and may hold public office unless it is incompatible with, or substantially interferes with, their professional responsibilities.

State employees’ expression of political opinions and full participation in the political process on their own time is not restricted.