



United States Fish & Wildlife Service

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Memorandum

From Director
Title Political Activity for Career Senior Executive Service Employees

As this Presidential election year unfolds, it is important that employees understand the applicable statutory restrictions on political activity. The “Hatch Act” establishes general provisions governing partisan political activity for all federal employees. Under the Act’s implementing regulations, “political activity” is defined as activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office, or a partisan political group.

The Act’s restrictions on employees are based on his or her official position. While the Act allows most Federal employees to take an active part in partisan political management and partisan political campaigns, the Act also provides specific restrictions to certain groups of Federal employees. For the Department of the Interior, employees who are holding career positions in the Senior Executive Service are restricted from engaging in certain partisan political campaign or management activities. The freedoms and restrictions for these employees are summarized below.

These employees . . .

May run for public office in nonpartisan elections.

May register and vote in any election.

May assist in non-partisan voter registration drives.

May express **personal** opinions about candidates and issues.

May participate in campaigns in which none of the candidates represents a political party.

May contribute money to political organizations or attend political fundraising functions.

May attend political rallies and meetings.

May join a partisan political club as member only and attend a political convention, fund raising function, or any other such gathering, but may not actively manage.

May sign a political petition, including nominating petitions.

May campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, municipal ordinances, etc.

May make a financial contribution to a political party or organization.

These employees . . .

May not be candidates for public office in partisan elections.

May not campaign for or against a candidate or slate of candidates in partisan elections.

May not directly or indirectly solicit campaign contributions from the general public. This includes collecting contributions or selling tickets to political fundraising events.

May not campaign for or against a candidate or slate of candidates in partisan elections, including making campaign speeches or distributing campaign materials, or organizing political rallies or meetings.

May not hold office in political clubs or parties.

May not circulate nominating petitions in partisan elections.

May not work to register voters for one party only.

May not wear political buttons at work.

May not use Government funds to support political activity.

Further information on acceptable political activities by Federal employees can be found in Hatch Act regulations in part 734 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations. If you have any questions regarding any of these prohibitions and their applications, you should seek the advice of your servicing ethics counselor.

Our mission is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.