

Philadelphia Board of Ethics

Political Activity Restrictions of the Home Rule Charter



Charter §10-107(4)

No appointed officer or employee of the City shall be a member of any national, state or local committee of a political party, or an officer or member of a committee of a partisan political club, or take any part in the management or affairs of any political party or in any political campaign, except to exercise his right as a citizen privately to express his opinion and to cast his vote.

PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF ETHICS

REGULATION NO. 8

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

SUBPART A. SCOPE; DEFINITIONS.

8.0 Scope. This Regulation, promulgated by the Board pursuant to its authority under Sections 4-1100 and 8-407 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter and Chapter 20-600 of The Philadelphia Code, interprets the requirements and prohibitions of Philadelphia Home Rule Charter Subsections 10-107(3)&(4) as applied to appointed City officers and employees, but not to elected officials. The examples and lists of permissible and prohibited behavior provided in this Regulation are for illustration and are not exhaustive.



Political Activity. An activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate, or partisan political group.

Employees may:

- Vote in any election and be a member of a political party
- Wear political buttons and may display political signs or stickers (while off duty, not in uniform, not using City resources and not in City office space)

Employees may:

- Engage in personal political expression and political activity, as long as:
 - (1) do not coordinate with a political party, candidate, or partisan political group
 - (2) Not on duty or using City resources or position

- Engage in political activities organized by a civic, community, labor, or professional organization (so long as the organization has not acted in concert or coordination with a political party, etc.)

Employees may:

Engage in expression and activity that is not political and is not directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate, or partisan political group.

Employees may not:

Engage in political activity

- On duty
- In uniform
- In City Hall or other City-owned/leased buildings
- With City resources

Employees may not:

Use City position for a political purpose,
including:

- Title
- Authority
- Subordinates

Employees may not:

Take part in the management or affairs of any political party, political campaign or partisan political group.

Includes any political activity performed in concert or coordination with a political party, candidate, or partisan political group.



Social Media

- Blogs
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Myspace
- Other social networking sites

Charter §10-107(3)

City employees may not directly or indirectly demand, solicit, collect or receive, or be in any manner concerned in demanding, soliciting, collecting or receiving, any assessment, subscription or contribution, whether voluntary or involuntary, intended for any political purpose whatever.

Charter 10-107(5)

Resign to run restriction

No City officer or employee, except elected officials running for re-election, may be a candidate unless he or she has first resigned from his or her City job.

Questions?

When in doubt, ask for advice.

Board of Ethics website “Ask for Advice”

www.phila.gov/ethicsboard/advice.html

Email:

Maya.Nayak@phila.gov

Phone:

(215) 686-9450



Complaints and Referrals

Board of Ethics website “Report a Concern”

www.phila.gov/ethicsboard/reportconcern.html

Email:

Michael.Cooke@phila.gov

Phone:

(215) 686-9450

