



The Hatch Act And Federal Employees

Permitted and Prohibited Activities for Employees Who May Engage in Partisan Activity

- May be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections
- May register and vote as they choose
- May assist in voter registration drives
- May express opinions about candidates and issues
- May contribute money to political organizations
- May attend political fundraising functions
- May attend and be active at political rallies and meetings
- May join and be an active member of a political party or club
- May sign nominating petitions
- May campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, municipal ordinances
- May campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections
- May make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections
- May distribute campaign literature in partisan elections
- May hold office in political clubs or parties including serving as a delegate to a convention
- May not use their official authority or influence to interfere with an election
- May not solicit, accept or receive political contributions unless both individuals are members of the same federal labor organization or employee organization and the one solicited is not a subordinate employee
- May not knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business before the agency
- May not engage in political activity while on duty
- May not engage in political activity in any government office
- May not engage in political activity while wearing an official uniform
- May not engage in political activity while using a government vehicle
- May not be candidates for public office in partisan elections
- May not wear political buttons on duty

For additional questions, contact:

U.S. Office of Special Counsel
1730 M Street N.W. Suite 201 · Washington DC 20036-4505
Phone: 1-800-85-HATCH · Web Site: www.osc.gov

This list does not apply to federal employees in the following agencies, divisions or positions: Federal Election Commission; Federal Bureau of Investigations; Secret Service; Central Intelligence Agency; National Security Agency; National Security Council; Defense Intelligence Agency; National Imagery and Mapping Agency; Merit Systems Protection Board; Office of Special Counsel; Office of Criminal Investigations of the IRS; Office of Investigative Programs of the U.S. Customs Service; Office of Law Enforcement of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; Criminal Division of the Department of Justice; Career members of the Senior Executive Staff; Administrative Law Judges; Contract appeals board members.