

SECTION 34

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

PURPOSE: To outline the policy for employees relating to political activity.

POLICY: To promote more efficient public service by relieving employees of political pressure and to regulate the political activities of its employees during regularly scheduled work hours or while performing duties for the County.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

County employees are encouraged to vote in elections. However, to avoid conflicts of interest or public misunderstanding, employees are prohibited from playing an active role in partisan political affairs during work hours.

No employee may take part in political management or political campaigns during duty or when functioning in an official capacity.

No employee or official shall solicit - orally or by letter - or be in any other manner concerned in obtaining any assessments, contributions or services for any political party from any employee or the public during duty hours or when functioning in an official capacity.

Political candidates may be greeted and political campaign material accepted for your personal information, but should be removed from public viewing immediately. No campaign material will be displayed on counters or desks at any time.

Nothing herein contained shall be construed to restrict the right of employees to hold membership in and support a political party, to vote as they choose, to express their opinions on all political subjects and candidates, to maintain political neutrality and to attend political meetings after working hours or to campaign actively during off-duty hours in all areas of political activity.

No employee may be a candidate for or hold the office of Lake County Commissioner. No employee shall hold or be a candidate for any other public office while in the employment of the County unless approval is obtained from their Department Director and the County Manager as involving no interest which conflicts with or interferes with county employment.

An employee who has been granted approval to become a candidate for public office pursuant to this section, may at the discretion of the employee's Department Director, be granted a leave of absence without pay to campaign for the office, or may be allowed to use accrued annual leave.