

State Police Commission

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August 08, 1995

General Circular No. 48

To: State Police Commission Members, Colonel Paul Fontenot, Russell Culotta, Foye Lowe, Walt Smith, William Spencer, Baxter Welch, Walter L. Smith, III, Floyd J. Falcon, Jr. and LSTA Affiliate Presidents

Re: Permissible and Prohibited Political Activities

Issue Date: August 08, 1995

Classified Employees in the State Police service and Members of the State Police Commission are governed by Article 10, Section 41, et seq. of the State Constitution and Chapter 14 and other related provisions of the Rules of the State Police Commission regarding political activities. This General Circular is to advise classified employees of the political activity restrictions and prohibitions to which they are subject.

The following activities that classified employees may engage in are not considered prohibited political activities. We caution you, however, that, where there is a question, you should call and consult with the State Police Commission staff.

YOU MAY

1. Serve as a poll commissioner or official watcher on behalf of a governmental entity at the polls.
2. Publicly support or oppose issues involving bonded indebtedness, tax referenda, or constitutional amendments.
3. Publicly support or oppose other issues of public debate other than in support of or opposition to a candidate or political party.
4. Sell your services for fair market value to a political party, candidate or faction.
5. Be a member of a private organization which may, under certain circumstances, endorse a candidate for public office just so long as the primary purpose of the organization is other

than the support of or opposition to candidates, political parties or factions. However, when the organization does support or oppose a candidate or a party, you may not take an active part in the management of the affairs of the organization.

6. Attend a free social function open to the public where all or any of the candidates speak or present their views to those attending.
7. Attend an election night party that is open to the public at large.
8. Appear in a photograph with your spouse who is a candidate for elected office.
9. Serve as host or hostess at your home when your spouse who is a candidate for election has a party at your home in support of your spouse's candidacy, but you may not take an active part by soliciting campaign contributions or other political activities.

Classified employees may not engage in certain political activities. Where a violation of political activity restrictions occurs, the State Police Commission staff will cause the violator to be brought before the State Police Commission for Investigation by Public Hearing. The State Police Commission has the authority to order a disciplinary action up to and including termination from the classified service.

Prohibited political activity is defined generally as any effort to support or oppose a candidate for election or a political party in an election.

As a result of the prohibitions contained in the State Constitution, you cannot be forced to engage in the following acts either directly or indirectly, through your spouse or another person.

YOU MAY NOT

1. Become a candidate for nomination or election to public office.
2. Become a member of any committee of a political party or faction.
3. Make or solicit contributions for any political party, faction or candidate.
4. Take an active part in the management of the affairs of a political party, faction, candidate or campaign.
5. Attend any fund raising function of a political party or candidate, even if someone gives you a free ticket.
6. Solicit votes for or against a candidate or political party.
7. Publicly announce, whether in writing or otherwise, your support or opposition to a candidate or political party.

8. Address or distribute campaign material for or against a candidate or political party.
9. Contribute time or property in support or opposition to a candidate or political party.
10. Display a bumper sticker in support or opposition to a candidate or political party on an automobile you solely own or are driving, whether such automobile is owned in part by another.
11. Place a sign supporting or opposing a candidate or political party on your property.
12. Contribute or lend money in support or opposition to a candidate or political party.
13. Vote at the caucus or convention of a political party, candidate or faction.
14. Wear or display tee shirts, hats or other political material or anything which indicates your support of or opposition to a candidate or political party.

The State Constitution further prohibits any person, whether a classified employee or not, from soliciting contributions for political purposes from you. Also, the Constitution prohibits any official in State Government from seeking to coerce you into engaging in political activity.

Violations of political activity restrictions should be reported to the staff of the State Police Commission at Post Office Box 66555, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896-6555. Such violation reports should be made in writing, signed by the person making the report, state his or her address and phone number and give as much information as possible, including all relevant times, dates and places and the names of all witnesses to or others involved in such alleged violations.

If you still have questions about what political activities you may or may not be involved in as a classified employee, contact the staff of the State Police Commission, Post Office Box 66555, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896-6555 or by phone at (504) 925-7057.

Sincerely,



Debra L. Johnson
Director