



8A Inspector General Newsletter

Election Year Guidance for Military Personnel and DoD Civilians Volume XI, Issue 7



Guidelines for Military Personnel and DoD Civilians During the Election Year

As we approach election season, it's crucial for all Soldiers and Department of Defense (DoD) civilians to understand and adhere to guidelines regarding political activities. These guidelines help ensure that we maintain the integrity of the Armed Forces and uphold the principles of impartiality and nonpartisanship.

Military Personnel

1. Voting and Registration:

- Encouraged to vote and participate in the electoral process.
- Can use resources like the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) for absentee voting.

2. Political Activities:

- Allowed to express personal opinions on political candidates and issues, but not as representatives of the military.
- Can join political clubs and attend political meetings as spectators, not in uniform.
- Can contribute to political organizations and attend political fundraising functions.

3. Restrictions:

- Cannot engage in partisan political activities while in uniform or in an official capacity.
- Prohibited from using official authority to influence an election.
- Cannot solicit votes or contributions for a partisan candidate or cause.
- Cannot run for civil office in a partisan election.
- Social media activities should align with the same restrictions on expressing partisan views in an official capacity.

DoD Civilians

1. Hatch Act:

- Subject to the Hatch Act, which restricts certain political activities of federal employees.
- Can be involved in political management and campaigns while off-duty and not in a federal facility.

2. Permitted Activities:

- Can vote and express personal opinions on political subjects and candidates.
- Allowed to display political signs, badges, or buttons while off-duty.
- Can make campaign contributions to political candidates and organizations.
- Permitted to attend and be active at political rallies and meetings.

3. Prohibited Activities:

- Cannot engage in political activity while on duty or in a federal workplace.
- Prohibited from using their official title or authority to influence an election.
- Cannot solicit or receive political contributions.
- Cannot run for office in a partisan election if the position falls under the Hatch Act's restrictions.

Adhering to these guidelines ensures that we uphold the values of the Army and maintain the trust of the public. Participation in the democratic process is encouraged, but it is essential to do so within the boundaries set forth to preserve the integrity and impartiality of our service.

8th Army

Commanding General

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Command Sergeant Major

CSM Robin M, Bolmer

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References

- DoD Directive 1344.10 (Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces))
- The Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 7321-7326)



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Political Activity Quick Guide

Am I...

DoD Employee

All DoD civilian employees and Schedule C appointments not covered under "Further restricted"

Active Duty Soldier

A Further Restricted DoD Employee

Presidential Appointees confirmed by the Senate (PAS), Non-career members of the Senior Executive Service (SES), Career members of the SES, Contract appeals board members, or employees of the NSA, DIA, or National Geo-Spatial-Intelligence Agency

May I...



May I...	
Volunteer to work on a campaign of a candidate running for partisan political office	
Engage in non-partisan political activity, including issue oriented campaigns, i.e., Healthcare, tax reform, and gun control	
Engage in political activity in a Federal building	
Park my personal vehicle with a (one) political bumper sticker in a government parking lot	
Place a campaign sign in your yard (not on a military installation)	
Write a letter to an editor, in my personal capacity, that endorses a candidate running for partisan political office	
Serve as an election judge for a city or county	
Work or stand at the polls, for a partisan candidate, on Election Day	
Make a monetary contribution to a political party or candidate	
Solicit, accept, or receive political contributions	
Use official equipment while engaging in political activity	



<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Yes</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>No</u>