Permissible University Activities

Voter Education and Registration

1. Voter Guides, Candidate Questionnaires, and other Voter Education Activities
2. Voter Registration Efforts, Polls, Get-Out-The-Vote
3. Websites and Online Information

Voter Guides, Candidate Questionnaires, and other Voter Education Activities

1. Guide is made available to the public
2. Contains no editorial opinion, and content and structure implies no bias or candidate preference
3. Assess position on wide range of subjects
Voter Registration
Cannot target voters of a particular party or help a specific candidate

Conducting Polls and Disseminating Results
Questions must be framed neutrally and accepted polling techniques used

Get-Out-The-Vote
Cannot favor a specific party or candidate

Websites and Online Information
- UNC Charlotte can provide links to a candidate's official website, but must have links to all candidates for that office
- Links must be presented in a neutral manner
- Online information must be neutral and provide information on all candidates for that office
**Issue Advocacy**

- UNC Charlotte may engage in issue advocacy. This is limited to non-political, public policy issues.

- Distinct from endorsing a political or partisan cause.

  *Example: Advocating for a more sustainable future*

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**CAUTION**

Cannot:

- Identify candidates by name
- Express approval or disapproval for a candidate
- Make specific reference to voting

*Issue Advocacy near an election can be tricky*

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**Permissible University Activities**
Engaging in Business with a Candidate

1. Goods and services may be sold, leased, or provided to candidates if they are made available to every candidate.
2. The goods or services must generally also be made available to the public.
3. Charges and fees must be fair-market value and usual rates to public.
4. Activities must be ordinary ongoing activities, not specifically created for candidates.

Permissible University Activities

Information and Data

UNC Charlotte may provide factual information and data to political candidates.

UNC Charlotte should make it clear that the University will not be identified with any candidate or political party and the data must be made equally available to all candidates.

For example, research and economic data, or any educational information on other topics.
Permissible University Activities

Hosting Candidates on Campus

Campaigns:
- Equal Opportunity
- No Fund Raising
- Non-Affiliated Group

Debates:
- Non-Partisan Panel
- Broad Topics
- Equal Opportunity

Hosting (Non)Candidates on Campus

Political candidates may speak on campus if:
- Expert in a non-political field
- Holds (or held) public office
- Distinguished military, legal or public service career

*No campaign activity can occur
*Clearly state that the individual is not appearing a political candidate and there is no mention of an upcoming election
Political Activities

Endorse

Prohibited University Activities

UNC Charlotte cannot endorse any political party, candidate, or cause.
Prohibited University Activities

Participation
UNC Charlotte cannot participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.
Lobbying

UNC Charlotte cannot engage in substantial quantities of lobbying for purposes of influencing legislation.

Note: Contact the Office of the Chancellor and Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Constituent Relations before engaging in any lobbying activities.
Employees can participate in civic activities...
- Registering to vote
- Becoming an candidate (consistent with University Policy)
- Solicit, accept, receive, and make campaign contributions
- Participate in elections
- Participate in political campaigns or organizations

However, 
*All activities must be conducted independently from the employee's UNC Charlotte employment*

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Permissible Employee Activities

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Teaching
Permissible Activities also include teaching, inquiry, and classroom discussion on political issues within the subject matter of the course
Political Activities
Brad Trahan
Assistant General Counsel
btrahan@unr.edu
(775) 784-1307

Prohibited Employee Activities

University Time

What does this mean?
An employee cannot participate in a political activity, including managing a campaign, during a period of time s/he is expected to perform services for UNC Charlotte.
What does this mean to you?

UNC Charlotte Vehicles = NO
UNC Charlotte Office Mailings = NO
UNC Charlotte Printers/Scanners/Copiers = NO
UNC Charlotte Email = NO
Senior Officers at UNC Charlotte (Chancellor, Provost, Vice Chancellors, and Deans) cannot:

- Solicit, accept, or receive financial contributions from other persons or organizations on behalf of a candidate
- Endorse or oppose a candidate for a partisan political office in a political advertisement, broadcast, campaign literature, or similar material

Prohibited Employee Activities

Misuse of authority --

- Employees may not inappropriately use their authority to secure support for, or opposition to, any person or issue in any election
- Employees cannot use their authority to coerce, solicit, or compel another UNC Charlotte employee to support, contribute, or oppose a political candidate, party, or cause