



CITY OF KENNER

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE

RE: NOTICE OF PROHIBITED POLITICAL ACTIVITY

This notice is issued as a reminder to all classified employees on the do's and don'ts of political activity. You are encouraged to become informed and vote for the candidate of your choice in each election. However, Kenner City Charter Section 8.03.A.3.h. and Kenner Civil Service Rule XV, POLITICAL ACTIVITIES govern the political activities of Kenner civil servants. Violations of these restrictions are extremely serious and can result in significant disciplinary action.

No member of the Kenner City Civil Service Board, or employee covered under the Kenner Classified Civil Service shall participate or engage in political activity; be a candidate for nomination or election to public office or be a member of any national, state, or local committee of a political party or faction, make or solicit contributions for a political party, faction or candidate; or take active part in the management of the affairs of a political party, faction, candidate, or any political campaign, except to exercise his right as a citizen to express his opinion privately, to serve as a commissioner or official watcher at the polls, and to cast his vote as he desires.

- It is important to remember that that the restrictions apply to ALL elections, local, state and federal.
- Prohibited political activity is defined generally as ANY effort to support or oppose a candidate for election or a political party in an election, whether the election is for a state, local, national, or even out-of-state office.
- **Civil servants must avoid the ACTUAL support of a candidate, party, or faction and avoid the APPEARANCE of giving such support.**
- No person shall solicit contributions for political purposes from any classified employee or use or attempt to use his position in the city service to punish or coerce the political activity of a classified employee.
- It is the duty of any employee or City Official to promptly report prohibited activity by a civil servant to the Civil Service Director, who shall make a thorough investigation and report her findings to the Civil Service Board. The Civil Service Board shall conduct a review of the investigation. If the Board determines that the civil servant did violate the Rule, the Board is empowered to order such disciplinary action as it deems appropriate, up to and including termination.
- These political activity restrictions do not apply to the spouse of a civil servant. The spouse of a civil servant may place a sign supporting a candidate in the yard of a home shared with the classified employee so long as it is the true expression of the spouse. Similarly, the spouse of a civil servant may place a political bumper sticker on the vehicle usually operated by the spouse, even though the classified employee may sometimes appear in that vehicle. The goal of avoiding the appearance of support by the classified employee should be kept in mind. If your spouse is a candidate for election to public office contact the Civil Service Department for additional information.

PROHIBITIONS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY KENNER CIVIL SERVANTS

The following are examples of what is and is not considered prohibited political activity, however when there is a question you should consult the Civil Service Director to avoid any violation and its consequences.

CIVIL SERVANTS MAY NOT (prohibited political activity):

- Become a candidate for nomination or election to public office.
- Publicly announce, in writing or otherwise, support or opposition to a candidate or political party or faction.
- Wear, use, display, or distribute tee shirts, hats, stickers, pins, fans, water bottles, or any other material in support of or opposition to a candidate or political party or faction.
- Display a bumper sticker on the vehicle you drive in support of or opposition to a candidate or political party or faction.
- Place a sign on your property supporting or opposing a candidate or political party or faction or allow anyone who is not your spouse to do so.
- “Like,” “share,” or “follow” a candidate or party on Facebook, Twitter or other form of social media.
- Attend any fund raising function of a candidate or political party or faction—even if someone gives you a free ticket. A function will be considered a fundraiser if it is advertised that anything—including food—will be sold at the function—even if you do not plan to buy anything.
- Prepare or distribute campaign material for or against a candidate or political party or faction.
- Solicit votes for or against a candidate or political party or faction.
- Contribute or volunteer time, effort, property, or any other thing of value in support of or opposition to a candidate or political party or faction.
- Make or solicit contributions for any candidate or political party or faction.
- Become a member of any committee of a political party or faction.
- Take an active part in the management of the affairs of a political party, faction, candidate, or campaign.
- Contribute or loan money in support of or opposition to a candidate or political party or faction.
- Vote at the caucus or convention of a candidate or political party or faction.

CIVIL SERVANTS MAY (allowed):

- Serve as a poll commissioner or official watcher on behalf of a governmental entity at the polls.
- Publicly support or oppose issues of public debate or election other than in support of or opposition to a candidate or political party or faction.
- Attend a free function open to the public where any or all of the candidates may speak or present their views.
- Sell services that you regularly offer or sell for fair market value to a candidate or political party or faction, even if doing so requires your presence at a fundraiser.
- Be a member of a private organization that may, under certain circumstances, endorse a candidate for public office, so long as the primary purpose of the organization is not the support or opposition of candidates, political parties, or factions. However, when the organization does support or oppose a candidate, party, or faction, you may not take an active part in the management of the affairs of the organization—even in matters not related to that support or opposition.
- Attend an election night party (even before the polls close), but not after a primary election that is to be followed by a runoff election.
- Attend an inaugural celebration or a victory party after election night that is not a fundraiser.

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING SPECIFIC POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OR TO REPORT A POSSIBLE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES VIOLATION, CONTACT THE CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT AT (504) 466-5477 OR CIVILSERVICE@KENNER.LA.US