

PARTICIPATING IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT EMPLOYEES

ON-DUTY ACTIVITIES

In what political activities may a temporary or intermittent Federal employee participate when on duty?

- None; a Federal employee may not engage in partisan political activities while on Government premises or when on duty.

What other limits apply when at work?

- Federal employees may not:
 - use Government property for political purposes, including equipment, supplies, and services (such as telephones and faxes);
 - use a Government position or influence to interfere with an election or to coerce any person to participate in a political activity;
 - wear a political button on duty;
 - display a partisan banner, sign, sticker, or poster on Federal premises; or
 - consider political affiliation or political activity with regard to a personnel action (except with regard to Schedule C employees and non-career SES appointments).

OFF-DUTY ACTIVITIES

Are there any restrictions on a temporary or intermittent employee's political activities when not on duty or on Government premises?

- No; restrictions on the political activities of employees who serve less than 130 days per 365-day cycle or on an intermittent basis with an irregular schedule are limited to on-duty conduct or conduct while on Federal premises. When not on duty and not on U.S. Government property, such employees may fully participate in partisan political activities, including running for office in a partisan election, soliciting political contributions, or otherwise supporting a candidate or party.

Are these the only restrictions on Federal employees?

- No. Employees are also subject to ethics rules regarding misuse of position and information.

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FOR ADVICE ON THIS TOPIC, CALL THE ETHICS DIVISION AT (202) 482-5384

A WORD ABOUT ETHICS