

Elective and Non-Elective Offices and Political Activities

System Policy: 07.03

Approved: December 5, 2008

Most Recent Revision: August 26, 2021

Next Scheduled Review: August 26, 2026

A&M-Commerce Rule: 07.03.01.R1

Approved: June 24, 2005

Revised: May 17, 2021

Next Scheduled Review: May 17, 2026

Responsible University Office:

Office of the President

Responsible University Administrator:

Chief of Staff

Texas A&M System policy provides, with certain restrictions, for faculty as citizens to hold elective and non-elective offices. The restrictions apply to conflict of interest, interference with the faculty member's duties or the duties of others, and the manner in which the faculty member's activities reflect on the university.

Faculty members have the right to participate in political activities, so long as such participation does not interfere with the discharge of duties and responsibilities to the university or involve the university in partisan politics. Employment with the university is incompatible with holding some public offices (see System Policy [07.03](#), Section 3.3 Employees as Candidates and Officeholders for more information).

As a state-supported institution, A&M-Commerce remains neutral in political activities. Individual faculty members continue to enjoy their constitutional rights and privileges concerning freedom of speech and participation in political events. While A&M-Commerce encourages the free exchange of ideas and will protect freedom of speech, the university maintains its right to impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on acts of expression on university property. Faculty members involved in political activity must make it clear that their statements are made as private citizens and not as university employees. They may not represent their personal political viewpoints as official university endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities. They may not use the classroom as a forum for any type of partisan political activity, nor may they use state supplies or equipment in connection with any political campaign. For further information on restrictions on how university facilities may be used for political activities, please see university [Rule 07.03.01.R1](#).