



Rule Statement

As a state-supported institution of higher education, East Texas A&M University remains neutral in partisan political activities. Individual faculty, staff, and students continue to enjoy their constitutional rights and privileges concerning freedom of speech and participation in political events. While the University 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 in facilities under university control.

This rule identifies the extents and limits of the University relative to political affiliations, doctrines, campaigns, or events held in facilities under university control.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1 ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS

The University may not endorse, recommend, or otherwise indicate partisan political support for any candidate for an elected office, or for any current officeholder of such an office. University employees may not represent their personal political viewpoints as official university endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities.

2 DISCRIMINATION BASED ON POLITICAL VIEWPOINT

The University will neither discriminate against nor favor any organization or individual on the basis of political affiliation or doctrine.

3 USE OF FACILITIES

3.1 Political Campaign Meetings or Speeches. Student organizations that are currently registered with the Office of Student Engagement, and faculty or staff groups that are recognized by the University and which utilize university facilities, may invite candidates for political office or current officeholders to speak at the group's meeting.

These groups are responsible for informing the Office of the President about the events to ensure the officeholders are afforded all due respect and courtesies to which their office is entitled.

3.2 Political Campaign Advertising. Registered student organizations and faculty or staff groups may create and post advertisements for their events including on-campus political speakers, provided the dates of their events are clearly printed on all materials and that such materials include a clearly visible statement that the candidate's or officeholder's visit does not constitute any endorsement by the University of the candidate or officeholder or any of their views. If the campus is used as an official polling place, the official elections and campaign rules and regulations of that election will supersede the university's political campaign advertising regulations, except that no candidate or officeholder may claim any endorsement by the University.

4 CURRENT OFFICEHOLDERS

When a holder of political office visits the University, the officeholder shall be afforded all due respect and courtesies to which the office is entitled. However, the officeholder may not engage in any partisan political activities, including campaigning for self or on behalf of others, unless the group inviting the officeholder to campus complies with Sections 3.1 and 3.2. If the nature of an officeholder's visit is not clear prior to arrival, the University should use its best efforts to determine in advance if the officeholder will be engaging in any partisan activities during the visit.

5 USE OF SYMBOLS, INSIGNIA, AND OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS

The University prohibits the use of any of its symbols, insignia, or other identifiable marks in association with any partisan political activities, including campaigns by political candidates, except to advertise events held in university-controlled facilities, in accordance with Section 3.2.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

System Policy [07.03, Conflicts of Interest, Dual Office Holding, and Political Activities](#)

System Regulation [07.03.01, Political Campaign Events in Facilities Under the Control of The Texas A&M University System](#)

University Rule [08.99.99.R1 Expressive Activity on Campus](#)

University Procedure [08.99.99.R1.01 Invited Speakers](#)

Revision History

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