

Category: 300  
Number: 327

Subject: **POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

1. PURPOSE: It is the purpose of this policy to ensure that every employee shall be able to freely express his/her views as a citizen and to cast his/her vote in the manner in which he/she sees fit.
2. AUTHORITY: The Saginaw County Board of Commissioners.
3. APPLICATION: The rules and regulations herein set forth apply to all employees paid by Saginaw County, pursuant to Policy # 301.
4. RESPONSIBILITY: The Controller/CAO shall be responsible for the implementation and administration of this policy.
5. DEFINITIONS: NONE
6. POLICY:

6.1 State Statute on Political Activities by Public Employees. In accordance with P.A. 169 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1976, a County employee may:

- 6.1.1 Become a member of a political party committee formed or authorized under the State Election laws.
- 6.1.2 Be a Delegate to a state, district or county convention held by a political party in this state.
- 6.1.3 Engage in other political activities on behalf of a candidate or issue in connection with partisan or nonpartisan elections.
- 6.1.4 Become a candidate for nomination and election to any state elective office, or any district, county, city, village, township, school district or other local elective office without first obtaining a leave of absence from employment. (See Section 6.2)

In accordance with P. A. 169, employees shall not:

- 6.1.4.1 Actively engage in the activities listed in subparagraphs 6.1.1 through 6.1.3 above during those hours when being compensated for the performance of their duties as a public employee.

- 6.1.4.2 Either personally, or through an agent, coerce, attempt to coerce or command another public employee to pay, lend or contribute anything of value to a party, committee, organization, agency or person for the benefit of a person seeking or holding elected office, or for the purpose of furthering or defeating a proposed law, ballot questions or other measure that may be submitted to a vote of the electors.
- 6.2 Employees of Elected Officials. An employee who becomes a candidate for elective office in the department in which he or she works may be required to request and take a leave of absence without pay when he or she complies with the candidacy filing requirements, or 60 days before the election, whichever date is closer to the election. The decision to require the employee to request and take a leave of absence without pay shall be at the discretion of the Elected Official.
- 6.3 Employees Elected to County Office. An employee who is elected to a County governmental office shall resign or may be granted a Leave of Absence from his or her employment during the elected term. The decision to grant a leave of absence or require the employee to resign shall be at the discretion of the County Controller.
- 6.4 Employees of Departments Financed by Federal Funds. Federal law prohibits partisan political activity by an officer or employee of a state or local agency if his principal employment is in connection with an activity that is financed in whole or in part by loans or grants made by the United States or a Federal agency. The law does not prohibit an employee from voting as he chooses or from expressing his individual opinion on political subjects and candidates.
- 6.5 Posting and Distributing Political Material. The posting of political signs and distributing political literature or other handouts on County property is prohibited.
7. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES: Contact the Personnel Division of the Controller's Office if in doubt as to the applicability of Federal Political Activities Act or if more definitive information is needed concerning partisan political activity.
8. CONTROLLER/CAO LEGAL COUNSEL REVIEW: The Controller/CAO has determined that this policy as submitted to the Board of Commissioners contains the necessary substance in order to carry out the purpose of the policy. County Civil Counsel has determined that this policy as submitted contains content that appears to be legal activities of the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners.

Approved as to Substance:  
Saginaw County Controller/CAO

Approved as to Legal Content:  
Saginaw County Civil Counsel

ADOPTED/AMENDED: April 23, 2002