



MEMORANDUM

To: University System Presidents, VPAAAs, VPSAs, CBOs, CHROs, and General Counsels
From: USG Office of Legal Affairs
Date: July 16, 2026
Subject: Policy Guidance on Political Activity

This memorandum serves as USG Legal Affairs' periodic guidance regarding free expression and political activity in the University System of Georgia (USG). With the approach of the 2026 general election, we are providing this guidance to summarize questions that we often receive during campaign season about certain USG policies related to political activity. Please share this information with your campus communities.

Employee Expression of Political Opinions – BOR Policy 8.2.18.3

The USG respects the free expression rights of USG employees to share their personal views on political issues. **Sharing personal political views must be done only in an employee's personal capacity and in a manner that does not interfere with work or involve use of state resources.** Likewise, USG employees must not hold themselves out as speaking or acting on behalf of the USG or its institutions when participating in political activities. Employees must also take reasonable measures to avoid any appearance that their participation is in an official capacity as an employee of the USG or its institutions.

USG employees may list their employment status, title, affiliation with USG or a USG institution, or similar information in a biographical description so long as they make it clear when expressing personal political views—whether at an external speaking engagement, on social media, or elsewhere—that they are speaking in their own personal capacity and not in their capacity as an employee of or on behalf of USG or a USG institution. Employees also may not use state property, resources, or materials (including work email or other technology resources) or work time to communicate personal political views. Finally, employees are prohibited from using any USG registered trademarks when expressing personal opinions on political issues unless expressly authorized to do so.

Employee Involvement in Political Campaigns – BOR Policy 8.2.18.3

Individuals may not hold elective political offices at the state or federal level while employed by USG. Any employee seeking federal or state elective office must notify his or her direct supervisor prior to qualifying as a candidate and request a leave of absence without pay.

Under state law, employees may hold elective political office at the local government level or hold office in a political party or political organization of this state, provided that the office is part-time and does not interfere with the employee's official duties. **As with the requirements regarding expression of personal political opinions, employees serving in local office must avoid any appearance that their participation is in an official capacity as an employee of the USG or a USG institution and must not utilize state property, resources, materials, or time.**

Employees also may take an active part in political campaigns in their personal capacities and on their personal time, but they may not do so during work hours or where such involvement would otherwise



interfere with work responsibilities. Under no circumstances may employees use any state property, resources, or materials in conjunction with any political campaigning.

Use of Institution Facilities in Political Campaigns – BOR Policy 6.14

During campaign season, political candidates often ask to campaign on USG campuses, and institution presidents may authorize the use of institution facilities for any campaign related activity. If your institution receives a request for a political candidate to use campus facilities for a campaign rally, to deliver a political speech, or to otherwise campaign on campus, please contact the University System Office for assistance with handling the request or potentially preparing for the event.

USG policy provides that the requirements for use of institution facilities and property apply to all outside parties in the same manner, regardless of the reason for the use. Therefore, the institution must require reasonable compensation for use of all institution resources required for the event. The institution must also require the proper execution of a [USG-approved license agreement](#) as described in the policy. At no time can USG resources be used in a political campaign without adequate compensation or in a way that could convey support by the USG or an institution for a campaign, candidate or cause. This includes the use of student activity fee funding allocated to a registered organization to pay event space fees for a political campaign event (such as a rally or campaign speech) or other campaign expenses. Institutions should also make reasonable efforts to ensure that there is no display of USG or institution trademarks at the event.

Requests for use of institutional facilities or resources by current elected officials who have qualified as a candidate for an upcoming election must be considered on an individual basis. Whether any activity constitutes participation or intervention in a political campaign depends on all the facts and circumstances of the situation.

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Thank you for all you do on behalf of student education and success in Georgia and for your attention to this guidance during the campaign season. Should you have any questions about this guidance or wish to discuss it further, please contact the USG Office of Legal Affairs at 404-962-3255.