Utah STATE OFFICE of Education

Leadership...Service...Accountability

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES
by USOE Employees

The following are legal and ethical activities:

1. USOE employees may meet together–outside of work time, even following required meetings–to discuss political ideas and activities. Employees or supervisors ARE NOT REQUIRED to notify voucher supporters of upcoming work events or rallies.

2. USOE offices and facilities (meeting rooms, copy machines, office equipment) must be available fairly and even-handedly to all organized groups and points of view–and only consistent with USOE policies.

3. USOE employees may provide factual information at school community council meetings, PTA meetings and other voluntary meetings.

4. USOE employees may inform others of political and education issues through office-wide websites, newsletters etc. Examples: "SLC voters can hear mayoral candidates at 7 p.m. at West High School" or "Pro voucher information is available at the front desk." USOE employees should follow supervisors' directives on this issue and the use of office resources.

5. USOE employees can explain their personal opinions to parents or patrons on matters of public concern, *upon request*. Extended discussions should occur during non-work time.

USOE employees should avoid the following activities:

1. Employees should not contact people about their political positions using office email, mail, office directories or other office resources.

2. Employees should not fund-raise or campaign during office time or during times or events they are representing the USOE.

3. Employees should not wear political buttons advocating one viewpoint during work time. Buttons or t-shirts that advocate "VOTE!" or "We love America" are fine.

4. Employees should not try to convince employees whom they supervise. Answering questions and providing factual information are fine.

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