

UNIVERSITY RULE

07.03.01.M1 Political Campaign Events and Partisan Political Activities in Facilities Under the Control of Texas A&M University

Approved February 18, 1997

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Rule Statement

Texas A&M University is a state supported public institution of higher education. The responsibility for educating and training the future leaders of the state and nation carries with it a duty to adhere to the highest ethical standards and principles. In fulfilling its multiple missions as an institution of higher education, Texas A&M University encourages the free exchange of ideas. In accordance with the Texas A&M Rule on Freedom of Expression, the University will protect the freedoms of speech, expression, petition, and peaceful assembly, while maintaining its right to impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions concerning acts of expression and dissent.

Official Rule/ Responsibilities/ Process

1. INSTITUTIONAL NEUTRALITY

In order to maintain its integrity as a public institution, it is critical that Texas A&M maintain neutrality in regard to any partisan political activity. Texas A&M University will not discriminate against any organization or individual on the basis of political affiliation or doctrine, nor will it favor any political organization or doctrine over another. Texas A&M University cannot endorse, support or promote any political candidate (either incumbents or new office seekers, members of their staffs, or their campaign representatives) or any partisan political activity. Further, it is the intent and expectation of Texas A&M University that all faculty, staff, and students avoid any behavior that could reasonably be interpreted as official University endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities. Nothing in this rule should be construed to limit the right or ability of any member of the University community to express personal opinions or to exercise his or her right to engage in political activities outside his or her official capacity or affiliation with the University, within the limits of [System Policy 07.01 Ethics](#) and in compliance with System Regulation 07.03.01

2. USE OF UNIVERSITY FUNDS, SERVICES OR FACILITIES

In accordance with the A&M System Ethics, no Texas A&M University employee shall

expend or authorize the expenditure of any University funds, services, or supplies for the purpose of influencing the outcome of any election, or partisan political activity.

Political candidates (either incumbents or new office seekers, members of their staffs, or their campaign representatives) and-or current officeholders are not permitted to reserve in the University buildings or facilities for political campaign events. An outside area on campus may be reserved in accordance with the Texas A&M University Rule on Freedom of Expression ([Appendix XI in the Texas A&M University Student Rules](#)).

3. When a holder of a political office visits a facility under the control of Texas A&M University, the officeholder will be afforded all due respect and courtesies to which the office entitles. However, the officeholder may not engage in any partisan political activities in Texas A&M University facilities, including campaigning for self or on behalf of others, unless the officeholder complies with the member rule dealing with campaigning. If the nature of an officeholder's visit is not clear prior to arrival, Texas A&M University must use its best efforts to determine in advance if the officeholder will be engaging in any partisan activities during the visit.

4. USE OF SYMBOLS, INSIGNIA, OR MARKS

Texas A&M University prohibits the use of any of its symbols, insignias, or other identifying marks in association with any activity that involves the endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities. For purposes of this rule, the prohibition includes, but is not necessarily limited to, all marks and all official insignia, uniforms, landmarks, or licensed songs that may be reasonably identified with Texas A&M University. This prohibition also includes any University sponsored or recognized organizations that officially represent the institution, such as the Corps of Cadets (and all included units) and athletic teams. University sponsored or recognized organizations will be determined by the Vice President for Student Affairs.

5. SPONSORSHIP OF CAMPAIGN EVENTS

In the spirit of maintaining a "marketplace of ideas," officially recognized faculty, staff and student organizations may sponsor partisan political activities or events on campus in accordance with all applicable University rules. In sponsoring a partisan political activity on campus, a recognized student organization or group of organizations must provide reasonable notice of the event to appropriate university officials and cannot delegate any responsibility for the event to non-student organizations unless mutually agreed upon by appropriate university officials, the sponsoring organization, and the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, as set forth in the [Texas A&M University Student Rules](#).

6. DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Texas A&M University reserves the right to require that a statement be made prior to the presentation of any speaker that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the institution or the sponsoring group.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

Supplements [System regulation 07.03.01](#)

[System Policy 07.01, Ethics](#)

[Appendix XI in the Texas A&M University Student Rules](#)

Contact Office

For rule interpretation or clarification, please contact the [Vice President for Student Affairs](#) and [Dean of Faculties](#).