

Rule 8. Political Activities

A. The provisions of this rule apply to members of the Classified Service.

B. Prohibited Activities

1. Employees are prohibited from taking an active part in a political campaign while on duty or during the time which the employee is expected to perform services for which compensation is received from the County.
2. Employees are prohibited from the following while on duty or on County property:
 - a. circulation of or seeking signatures to any petition provided for by any charter or law;
 - b. distributing badges, colors, or other indications favoring or opposing an issue or a candidate for election or nomination to a federal, state, county or municipal public office; or
 - c. making, soliciting or knowingly accepting any political contribution in a building owned by a governmental entity.
3. Employees are prohibited from holding a public office or being a candidate for public office while employed by the County.

C. Allowed Activities

As long as it is not in violation of Federal or Florida Law, Opinions of the Florida Division of Elections, other provisions of this Rule, and occurs during off-duty hours any employee may:

1. Express their opinions on any candidate or issue;
2. Participate in any political campaign; and
3. Serve as a member of the State Executive Committee or County Executive Committee of a political party.

D. Candidacy for Public Office

An employee is required to resign employment to run for public office as follows:

1. If at the Appointing Authority's sole discretion, he or she determines there is a conflict of interest between the employee's duties as a County employee and the employee's candidacy for public office, the employee must resign prior to the date he or she becomes a candidate pursuant to state law; or
2. If the Appointing Authority does not require resignation as outlined in D.1., above, the date on which the employee becomes a candidate pursuant to state law.

E. Hatch Act

Employees whose principal employment is in connection with activity financed, in whole or in part, by loans or grants made by the United States or a Federal Agency are subject to the provisions of the Hatch Act.