

CIRCULAR



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Title Local Hatch Act (Permitted and Prohibited Political Activities)
Number CIR-18-05
Effective Date July 9, 2018
Rescinds CIR-10-01 [The Hatch Act (Permitted and Prohibited Political Activities)], Effective Date March 6, 2010
Related to GO-PER-201.26 (Duties, Responsibilities and Conduct of Members of the Department)

I. BACKGROUND

In 2010, the Council of the District of Columbia passed D.C. Law No. L18-0335 *Prohibition on Government Employee Engagement in Political Activity Act of 2010* (Local Hatch Act), effective as of March 31, 2011, which established restrictions on the political activity of employees of the Government of the District of Columbia, similar to those already provided by the Hatch Act in the event that the District government was removed from coverage of the Hatch Act.

On December 28, 2012, Public Law No. 112-230 *Hatch Act Modernization Act of 2012* (Modernization Act) was signed into effect, as of January 28, 2013. As part of the Modernization Act, Congress removed employees of the Government of the District of Columbia from coverage under the provisions of the Hatch Act that apply to federal employees and placed employees of the District government under the provisions of the Hatch Act that applies to state and local government employees.

The purpose of this circular is to apprise members of prohibited and permitted political activity for employees subject to the Local Hatch Act. The provisions of the Local Hatch Act apply when a Metropolitan Police Department member is on-duty as well as when a member is off-duty.

II. DEFINITIONS

When used in this directive, the following terms shall have the meanings designated:

1. Partisan Political Office – Government of the District of Columbia office for which any candidate is nominated or elected as representing a party.
2. Political Activity – activity regulated by the District of Columbia Board of Elections and directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office, partisan political group, ballot initiative, or referendum.

III. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

- A. At all times, members **shall not**:
1. Coerce, explicitly or implicitly, any subordinate employee to engage in political activity;
 2. Engage in political activity while wearing a uniform or official insignia identifying the office or position of the employee;
 3. Display political buttons, bumper stickers, posters or other political material at work, including in a government office or common area of a government building, and on government vehicles;
 4. Engage in political activity while using any vehicle owned or leased by the District government;
 5. Engage in political activity in any government office;
 6. Knowingly solicit, accept, or receive political contributions unless the member is filed as a candidate;
 7. File as candidates for partisan political office in District of Columbia Board of Elections regulated elections; and
 8. Use official authority or influence to interfere with an election.
- B. While on-duty, members **shall not**:
1. Engage in any political activity;
 2. Place political material on personal equipment (for example, clipboards) used while on-duty.

IV. PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

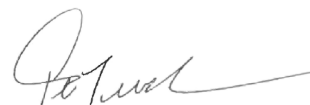
While off-duty, and subject to the requirements in Part III above, members **may**:

1. Register and vote as they choose;
2. Join and be an active member of political clubs or parties;
3. Contribute money to political campaigns, parties, or partisan groups;
4. Campaign (including making speeches and distributing literature) for or against candidates in partisan elections (where the candidates are running as representatives of a political party, such as the Democratic and Republican party);

5. Campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, and municipal ordinances;
6. File as candidates for election to non-partisan political office in District of Columbia Board of Elections regulated elections;
7. File as candidates for election to both partisan and non-partisan political office in non-District of Columbia Board of Elections regulated elections;
8. Hold office in political clubs or parties;
9. Express opinions about candidates and issues;
10. Assist in voter registration drives;
11. Sign nominating petitions; and
12. Attend and be active at political rallies and meetings.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisory and command personnel observing a violation shall take immediate action to terminate the activity. Violators may be subject to disciplinary action.



Peter Newsham
Chief of Police

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