

PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS

By law, University of Alaska employees may not use **or permit the use** of email or other University property or resources for **partisan** political purposes. Partisan political purpose is defined by law: anything done with the purpose of **differentially benefiting or harming a candidate or potential candidate, political party or group**. (See AS 39.52.120(b)(6).)

The following are some general guidelines. However, because the Ethics Act is complex and some issues may involve constitutionally protected speech or matters of academic freedom under Board of Regents' policy, please seek advice from your supervisor or the General Counsel's office if you have questions regarding a specific case.

Activities generally not allowed, if University resources are used, include:

- Students or employees using University networks to send bulk email supporting a candidate or party;
- Employees hosting partisan gatherings using University facilities or resources without payment for the use;
- Students or employees using University resources to reproduce or distribute partisan campaign materials.

Allowable activities (not considered partisan use of university resources):

- Hosting an **all-candidate** forum or debate as a public service;
- Faculty inviting a candidate to a class to address matters **related to the class**;
- Authorized student clubs **using their funds** to host a partisan gathering on campus or participate in a partisan event;
- University spokespersons, students or UA advocates informing legislators, candidates and the public about University priorities, requested budgets, positions, programs, and/or research activities;
- Employees or students standing at a corner on campus during lunch or their own free time, waving a partisan sign.