

BOARD POLICY 522.5

522.5 - Staff Participation in Political Activities

The School Board recognizes that staff members have civic responsibilities and/or rights including the right to vote, to be an active member of the political party of their choice, to campaign for candidates for election to public office and to seek, campaign for and serve in public office. However, the Board also recognizes that students and staff should not be subjected to active political campaigning by staff members. Employees may exercise the rights and privileges of any citizen in matters of a political nature consistent with the following restrictions:

1. No school employee shall, during hours for which pay is received, use any time for the solicitation, promotion, election, or defeat of any referendum, candidate for public office, legislation, or political action.
2. No school employee shall use in any way the classrooms, buildings, property, or pupils for the purpose of solicitation, promotion, election, or defeat of any referendum, candidate for public office, legislation, or political action.
3. No school employee shall make use of school equipment or materials for the purpose of solicitation, promotion, election, or defeat of any referendum, candidate for public office, legislation, or political action.
4. Where discussions with students about candidates for any political office and issues occur as a part of the instructional program, teachers must present a balanced review of major political platforms or issues so as to afford students the opportunity to do their own thinking and decision-making.
5. No staff member may solicit or receive from any officer or employee of a political subdivision of this state any contribution or service for any political purpose during established hours of employment or while the officer or employee is engaged in his or her official duties.
6. The above does not apply to school employees in connection with any election, referendum or legislation where authorized by the School Board or District Administrator and where consistent with legal limitations.

Legal Ref.: Sections 6.76, 11.36(2), 12.07, Wisconsin Statutes

Cross Ref: Board Policy 512 – Employee Harassment

Board Policy 525 – Staff Solicitations

Board Policy 742 – Authorized Use of School Equipment

Board Policy 830 – Use of School Facilities

Board Policy 851 – Distribution of Materials in the Schools

www.fortschools.org/boardpolicies

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