

Office of the Vice President and General Counsel
Guidance on Campaign Activities
August 2008

The following is a brief summary of certain federal and state law requirements concerning political campaigns and employees of the University.

Institutions such as the University of Florida, may not participate in any political campaign or provide anything of value to support or oppose a candidate for public office. University facilities (unless rented through Business Affairs), email, logos and other resources may not be used for campaigning. University emails should not support or oppose any candidate.

Of course, University employees have the important right to freely participate in political campaigns in their personal capacity at times that do not interfere with their work responsibilities. Also, the University and its employees may conduct educational and academic research activities about candidates and issues.

As state employees, University employees may not participate in elective campaigns during their work time, use their offices to influence or interfere with an election, or solicit funds from other state employees to support or oppose a candidate in a coercive manner. In University buildings, funds may not be solicited from anyone to support or oppose a candidate (unless the space is rented from Business Affairs).

Certain areas of the campus, such as the Plaza of the Americas, are open for public speech, including political speech. Speech activities in these areas are encouraged, and may be conducted within UF's reasonable regulations that ensure activities do not interfere with University work and do not create unsafe conditions or violations of law.

When necessary to avoid confusion, employees should make clear they are expressing personal opinions--and not speaking in their official roles or on behalf of the University--when taking a position for or against a candidate.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office of the Vice President and General Counsel for assistance.