



LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to establish guidelines to prevent intervention in political activity and procedures for using campus facilities for political events that comply with federal tax laws governing tax-exempt organizations.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The primary purpose of the University is to create and share knowledge. Toward that end, the University promotes discussion of important issues in society, including the free expression and exchange of political viewpoints and ideas. The University will support and protect the freedoms of speech, expression, petition, peaceable assembly and association.

Nothing in this policy is intended to limit the rights of students, faculty or staff to express personal opinions or to engage in political activity in their individual capacities and as private citizens.

The University shall not, through its officials or units, participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office. This prohibits the University from donating to political candidates, political campaign organizations, political parties, political action committees (PACS) and "Section 527 Organizations." This policy also prohibits the University's direct or indirect payment or reimbursement of costs incurred by University officials, administrators, faculty and staff to attend a candidate campaign event, such as a breakfast, lunch, dinner or gala, including, without limitation, events sponsored by a PAC.

In addition, University officials, administrators, faculty, and staff are not authorized in their official capacity to make public or media statements in support of, or in opposition to, a political campaign or candidate for public office. When making such statements in their capacity as private citizens, such persons must indicate clearly that they are not representing the University or speaking for, or on behalf of, the University.

PROCEDURES

For information on appropriate political activity at the University, see *Political Activities Procedures*.

The University Counsel is responsible for the review and interpretation of the Policy as needed. This Policy will be applied consistent with IRS or other applicable legal guidance.

DEFINITIONS

Political candidate: A person who has publicly announced an intention to be a candidate for national, state, or local public office or is being promoted publicly to join a race and become an official candidate.

A viable candidate is someone who the media, the public and political observers believe can generate support and potentially win election. Candidates must fundraise effectively and win public support in opinion polls to be considered viable. An incumbent public official is not a political candidate until she/he has publicly announced an intention to run for reelection or another public office.

Political event: An event at which a political candidate or political organization speaks or is prominently featured. "Political event" also includes any event that has the purpose or primary effect of promoting a particular political candidate. A classroom presentation by a political candidate or political organization at the request of the instructor of a credit or non-credit course of the University is not a political event if the speaker is chosen solely for reasons other than candidacy for public office.

Political organization: A political campaign organization, political party, political action committee, so-called "section 527 organization," or similar organization that supports a political candidate or the views of a political candidate.

Sponsor: A University college, school, center, academic department, administrative unit, or University-recognized organization that provides a specific University budget number for all fees and charges associated with a political event.

University-recognized organization: An organization recognized by the President or other University Officer.

POLICY TYPE: COMPLIANCE