

HATCH ACT

Do's and Don'ts

These are Hatch Act guidelines, which active carriers must follow when participating in political campaigns for elected office or referendum. Please also review the section on the Federal Election Campaign Act for other pertinent regulations.

Do

- ✓ Run as candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections
- ✓ Register and vote as you choose
- ✓ Raise money for COLCPE from NALC members and their families
- ✓ Assist in voter registration drives
- ✓ Express opinions about candidates and issues
- ✓ Attend fund-raisers and contribute money to political organizations and campaigns

Don't

- ✗ Raise money for a partisan political campaign
- ✗ Run as a candidate for public office in partisan elections
- ✗ Use your official authority or influence to interfere with an election
- ✗ Solicit, accept or receive COLCPE contributions from non-NALC members and their families

Notes:

1) A partisan election is considered one in which any candidate may claim a political party. A federal employee is still violating the Hatch Act if they run as "No party affiliation" in an election where another candidate may run under a party membership (e.g., Democratic, Republican, Reform).

2) A federal employee may serve as treasurer for a local political party to the extent of preparing and filing campaign finance reports and paying campaign expenses. The employee would be prohibited from personally soliciting, accepting or receiving political contributions at or for a fund-raiser.

- ✓ Attend and be active at political rallies and meetings
- ✓ Join and be an active member of a political organization
- ✓ Sign nominating petitions
- ✓ Campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments and municipal ordinances
- ✓ Campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections
- ✓ Make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections
- ✓ Distribute political campaign literature in partisan elections
- ✓ Hold office in political clubs or parties including serving as a delegate to a convention
- ✗ Knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business before the Postal Service
- ✗ Engage in political activity while on duty, in any government office, while wearing an official uniform, or using a government vehicle
- ✗ Wear a political button on duty
- ✗ Allow your name to be used in any fund-raising appeal on behalf of a partisan political campaign
- ✗ Participate in a phone bank designed as a fund-raising effort for a partisan political campaign

Be off the clock, out of uniform and government vehicles, and away from the workplace

Otherwise, letter carriers are encouraged to use common sense when participating in campaigns and elections. Be off the clock, out of uniform and government vehicles, and away from the workplace.

Additional Hatch Act questions can be referred to your regional field coordinator, or to the Office of Special Counsel, Hatch Act Division, which can be contacted at 800-85-HATCH or through their website (www.osc.gov/hatchact.htm).