

# POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

If you have questions, contact the Conflicts of Interest Board's Attorney of the Day  
by phone at (212) 437-0707  
or by email at [aod@coib.nyc.gov](mailto:aod@coib.nyc.gov).  
All communications are confidential. [www.nyc.gov/ethics](http://www.nyc.gov/ethics)

*These restrictions are found in [Chapter 68 of the New York City Charter](#), New York City's conflicts of interest law.*

**The Rule:** You may not use City time or City resources to engage in political campaign activities and may not use your City position to coerce others to engage in political campaign activities.

- **“Political activities”** are campaign-related activities, that is, the support of or opposition to any candidate for elective office or a political party.
- **“City time”** is all the time when you are required to work for the City, both your scheduled work hours plus additional time when you are clocked in to your City job, such as during overtime. All campaign work must be performed when you are off the clock, including during your lunch hour, or by using during annual leave, comp time leave, or flex time. Check with your supervisor on how to document your time if you seek to clock out to participate in a campaign activity during your normal City work hours.
- **“City resources”** include your City title, email account, computer, official social media accounts, email lists, logos, phone, office supplies, equipment, vehicle, or staff. Some examples:
  - You may not use your City computer to send a campaign email, even if you use your personal email account.
  - You may not use your office's official X account to promote campaign events.
  - You may not use your City email account to contact campaign volunteers or staff.
  - You may not print campaign flyers on your office printer.
  - You may not copy your office's email list to a campaign's distribution list.
  - If you are not an elected official, you may not use your City title to endorse a candidate.
- You may not ask your **City subordinates** to volunteer, work for, or donate to any campaign. However, your subordinates may choose to volunteer or work for a campaign, including the campaign where you volunteer or work.
- You may not make **paid communications** with any City agency, such as the City's Board of Elections or Campaign Finance Board, for a campaign.
- If you have been designated by your agency as having [“substantial policy discretion,”](#) you may not hold certain national, state, or county political party positions and may not participate in any fundraising for any candidate for Mayor, Comptroller, Public Advocate, Borough President, or Council Member, or the campaign for any of these elected officials for any office, such as State Assembly, State Senate, or United States Representative.