Political Activity Guidelines

In accordance with the Illinois State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 430/5-15, and the Chicago State University Board of Trustees Regulations, Chicago State University employees are prohibited from engaging in political activity during compensated time other than vacation, personal or compensatory time off. Additionally, University employees are prohibited from intentionally misappropriating any State property or resources (including University property or resources) by engaging in any prohibited political activity for the benefit of any campaign for elective office or any political organization or referendum question.

The Office of Executive Inspector General (OEIG) often receives complaints about inappropriate political activity by State employees. State law and agency policies put restrictions on the kinds of political activity that are appropriate for State employees under certain circumstances.

Many forms of political activity are entirely appropriate for State employees to engage in on their own time and using their own resources. For example, there are no rules prohibiting any of the following activities when the State employee is **not** working:

- Registering to vote, and voting in elections
 - candidate or ballot question
- Make campaign contributions

However, State employees must be very careful about mixing politics and work. While a University employee is on compensated time, other than vacation, personal or compensatory time off, it is inappropriate for the University employee to engage in any of the political activities previously referenced or any other political activity. For example, while on the job, it is also inappropriate for University employees to:

- Plan political meetings
- Distribute campaign literature
- Prepare responses to a candidate questionnaire

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