



ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 5006

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POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to implement Board policy 4006 summarizing the types of political activities in which board members and employees may or may not engage pursuant to Idaho statutes.

Legal Authority

Idaho Code 18-1351 thru 1358 - Statutes governing bribery and corruption; threats and improper influence in official or political matters; compensation for past official actions; threats against public officials; gifts to public servants; selling political endorsement or influence.

Idaho Code 40-318 - Limitation on political activities conducted by the Board or Department employees.

Idaho Code 40-503 - Statute stating that the Director and the Chief Engineer may not hold a position in any political organization.

Idaho Code 67-5311 - Limitation on political activities for all classified employees.

Idaho Code 74-401 through 74-406 - Ethics in Government Act of 2015.

General Provisions

Department employees are encouraged to participate in the political process to the limits established by law as long as their activities do not jeopardize the department and its operations.

All officers and employees of the Idaho Transportation Department or Board have the right to:

- Register and vote in any election.
- Express opinions, both publicly and privately as an individual on political candidates and subjects.
- Display political pictures, stickers, badges, or buttons.
- Participate in the non-partisan activities of a civic, community, social, or professional organization.
- Be a member of a political party or other political organization and participate in its activities.
- Attend political conventions, rallies, fund raisers, or other gatherings.

- Sign a political petition as an individual.
- Contribute financially to a political party or organization.
- Actively support a candidate for election.
- Be politically active on constitutional amendments, referenda, local ordinances, and issues not specifically identified with a political party.
- Perform non-partisan work in connection with an election, such as serving as an election judge or clerk, assisting in voter registration drive, etc.
- Be a candidate and hold elective office in non-partisan bodies, such as zoning boards, school boards, or city councils.
- Take an active part in political organization management.
- Otherwise participate fully in public affairs, except as prohibited by law, in a manner which does not materially compromise the neutrality, efficiency, or integrity of the officer's or employee's administration of state functions.

Under penalty of dismissal, classified employees **MAY NOT:**

- Use their department positions to interfere with nominations, elections, or the results of elections.
- Directly or indirectly coerce other employees to contribute money, time, or anything of value to organizations or person for political purposes.
- Run for or hold elected, partisan public office while employed by the Idaho Transportation Department.
- Use department supplies, equipment or normal work hours for partisan or non-partisan political activities.



Brian W. Ness
Director

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