

7520.0300 POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

Subpart 1. **Affecting elections.** No employee shall use the employee's official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the results of an election or nomination for office.

Subp. 2. **Coercing contributions.** No employee shall directly coerce, attempt to coerce, command, or advise a merit system employee to pay, lend, or contribute anything of value to a party, committee, organization, agency, or person for political purposes.

Subp. 3. **Candidacy.** No employee shall be a candidate in a partisan election for any public office which is obtained through a partisan election. Candidacy for political party office is not prohibited.

Subp. 4. **Restrictions during leave.** An employee continues to be covered by the federal Hatch Act restrictions including all the restrictions listed in subparts 1 to 5 while on annual leave, sick leave, leave without pay, or administrative leave. Any employee shall resign from the service upon filing as a candidate for public office, except as provided in subpart 5.

Subp. 5. **Nonpartisan elections.** Any employee may be a candidate in nonpartisan elections. These are elections in which none of the candidates is to be nominated or elected as representing a political party whose candidates for presidential elector received votes in the last presidential election.

Subp. 6. **Hatch Act.** All prohibitions of political activity provided in the federal Hatch Act apply to employees under the merit system.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 12.22*

History: *17 SR 1279*

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