

CHAPTER 210A

FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

<p>210A.04 False political and campaign material; penalty; exceptions.</p> <p>210A.07 Undue influence on voters prohibited.</p> <p>210A.081 Political activities prohibited by employees of political subdivisions.</p> <p>210A.13 Transportation of voters to polls; penalty.</p> <p>210A.141 Refusing employee election privileges; penalty.</p>	<p>210A.26 Must file verified statement of expenditures.</p> <p>210A.28 Names of candidates shall not be printed on ballot unless statement is filed.</p> <p>210A.34 Corporations not to contribute to political campaign; permitted activities; reports; penalties.</p>
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210A.04 FALSE POLITICAL AND CAMPAIGN MATERIAL; PENALTY; EXCEPTIONS.

Subdivision 1. Every person who intentionally participates in the preparation or dissemination of paid political advertising or campaign material with respect to the personal or political character or acts of any candidate, which is known by that person to be false and which is designed or tends to elect, injure or defeat any candidate for nomination or election to a public office, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Subd. 2. Subdivision 1 does not apply to a printer or manufacturer of campaign material whose sole act is the printing or manufacturing of campaign material and delivery to the person who orders it, and who does not know the printed matter is false; nor does it apply to a broadcaster for a radio or television broadcast station or cable system whose sole act is the dissemination of the false information as advertising paid for in the regular course of business, and who does not know the information is false.

History: 1981 c 266 s 1

210A.07 UNDUE INFLUENCE ON VOTERS PROHIBITED.

No election judge, officer, or any other person shall directly or indirectly by himself or any other person in his behalf, make use of or threaten to make use of any force, coercion, violence, restraint, or undue influence, or inflict or threaten to inflict by himself, or any other person, any temporal or spiritual injury, damage, harm, or loss upon or against any individual in order to induce or compel or attempt to induce or compel that individual to vote or refrain from voting for any candidate or the ticket of any political party, or any measure before the people, nor shall by abduction, duress, or any fraudulent contrivance, impede or prevent the free exercise of the franchise of any voter at any primary or election, or compel, induce, or prevail upon any elector to give or to refrain from giving his vote at any primary or election.

History: 1981 c 29 art 7 s 25

210A.081 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED BY EMPLOYEES OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.

No officer, agent, clerk, or employee of any political subdivision shall, directly or indirectly, during his hours of employment solicit or receive funds or at any time use his authority or official influence to compel any officer or employee in the classified service to apply for membership in or become a member of any organization, or to pay or promise to pay any assessment, subscription, or contribution, or to take part in any political activity. Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be

punished accordingly, and if any officer or employee in the classified service is found guilty of violating any provision of this section, he is automatically separated from the service. No political subdivision may impose or enforce any additional limitations on the political activities of its employees.

History: 1981 c 210 s 50

210A.13 TRANSPORTATION OF VOTERS TO POLLS; PENALTY.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1980]

Subd. 3. It shall be unlawful for any candidate to transport any voter other than a member of a candidate's household, a candidate's parents or the parents of a candidate's spouse, to or from the polls on primary or election day.

[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1980]

History: 1981 c 33 s 1

210A.141 REFUSING EMPLOYEE ELECTION PRIVILEGES; PENALTY.

No person acting as principal or as an official or agent of another, shall directly or indirectly refuse, abridge or in any manner interfere with the election privileges or immunities of an employee of that person or his principal. A violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

History: 1981 c 29 art 7 s 26

210A.26 MUST FILE VERIFIED STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1980]

Subd. 4. **Elections in certain municipalities, statements to be filed.** Every candidate and the secretary of every personal campaign committee in every municipal primary, special municipal election, or regular municipal election in all municipalities having more than 20,000 inhabitants shall file a financial statement as follows:

- (a) Seven days before the primary;
- (b) Seven days after the primary;
- (c) Seven days before the regular or special elections; and
- (d) Seven days after the regular or special election.

The statement shall be verified upon the oath of the candidate or the personal campaign committee, as the case may be, and shall cover all transactions made up to and including the third day before the filing of the statement and not accounted for and reported upon in statements theretofore filed, except that no transactions shall be made thereafter which are not included in the final statement. The statements required by this subdivision shall disclose the same information required in subdivision 2. Each statement after the first shall contain a summary of all preceding statements and summarize all items theretofore reported under the provisions of this section. Blanks for all these statements shall be prepared by the secretary of state, and copies thereof, together with a copy of this section, shall be furnished, through the county auditor, or otherwise, as the secretary of state may deem expedient, to the secretary of every committee and to every candidate, upon the filing of nomination papers by the candidate, and to all other individuals required by the charter of the municipalities or any election law applicable to the municipality, in which any municipal primary, special municipal election, or regular municipal election is being held or is to be held under the provisions of

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any municipal charter, or applicable law, and to all other persons required by law to file statements who may apply therefor. The provisions of section 210A.26 relating to the filing of verified statements of expenditures shall be in addition to requirements contained in the charter of any municipalities requiring the filing of verified statements of expenditures in connection with any municipal primary, special municipal election, or regular municipal election held or to be held under any municipal charter or applicable law. The verified statements shall be filed with the proper filing officer of the municipality.

[For text of subds 5 and 6, see M.S.1980]

History: 1981 c 29 art 7 s 27

210A.28 NAMES OF CANDIDATES SHALL NOT BE PRINTED ON BALLOT UNLESS STATEMENT IS FILED.

The name of a candidate chosen at a primary, or otherwise, shall not be printed on the official ballot for the ensuing general election, unless there has been filed by or on behalf of the candidate and by his personal campaign committee, if any, the statements of accounts and expenses relating to nomination required by sections 210A.01 to 210A.44.

History: 1981 c 29 art 7 s 28

210A.34 CORPORATIONS NOT TO CONTRIBUTE TO POLITICAL CAMPAIGN; PERMITTED ACTIVITIES; REPORTS; PENALTIES.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1980]

Subd. 4. It shall not be a violation of this section for a major political party, as defined in section 200.02, subdivision 7, to form a nonprofit corporation for the sole purpose of holding real property to be used exclusively as the party's headquarters.

[For text of subds 5 to 8, see M.S.1980]

History: 1981 c 29 art 7 s 29