

## **Electioneering**

The Board understands that that an individual's rights under the First Amendment, including the right to electioneer, must be balanced against an individual's right to vote free from harassment and partisan interference. Although the community retains the right to free expression on school premises, school officials may regulate such expression to prevent circumstances which might reasonably be found to have a high likelihood of causing substantial disruption or material interference with school activities, including elections. Due consideration shall be given to the constitutionally protected right to freedom of expression, including the right to electioneer, as well as the health and safety of the District's students and visitors, including individuals seeking to vote.

Electioneering during the hours of any vote is prohibited within the polling place or within 100 feet of the entrances to the building(s) where polling places are located. Electioneering includes, but is not limited to, displaying or distributing any banner, poster, placard, button, flyer, or other items supporting or opposing any candidate or issue to be voted upon in that day's election.

During the hours of any vote, electioneering outside the 100 feet but on school grounds shall not be conducted in a manner that is disruptive or impedes the educational and/or democratic process, or presents a safety concern, including interfering with the act of voting by any person. For example, individuals may not:

- congregate in such a way that disrupts or impedes pedestrian or vehicular traffic to/from and on school grounds;
- knock on or otherwise make intentional contact with other individuals' cars located on school grounds;
- sit or stand in District parking lots in a manner that disrupts parking lot traffic;
- harass or incite conflict with other members of the public;

Individuals acting in such disruptive manner shall be deemed in violation of the District's Code of Conduct and subject to the remedies therein.

The District Clerk, along with election inspectors and other designated staff shall be charged with enforcing the above. The District Clerk and designees shall be responsible for ensuring the placement of distance markers at a distance of 100 feet from the polling place and may require individuals to cease any disruptive behavior, and contact local law enforcement if required.

During voting hours when District staff are off-duty, such staff may electioneer as members of the public. District staff may not exploit their status in the District, however, to promote a partisan position.

At no time may District staff use school District resources or funds to promote a partisan position, including but not limited to encouraging members of the public to vote for a particular candidate or position.

Moreover, when acting in their professional capacity, District staff may not encourage students, parents, or other members of the public to vote for a particular candidate or position. District staff members shall be deemed to be acting in their professional capacity when, they are teaching in the classroom, providing services within the school District, are on school grounds during the school day, or are participating in school events.

The above provision shall not apply with respect to the wearing of union related insignias and/or clothing to the extent not disruptive to the educational process.

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