



## **Campaign Guidelines For Board Candidates**

The District encourages all candidates to be involved and engaged with the District and its community. At the same time, candidates must be treated equally and there should not be any suggestion the District supports or opposes any candidate. To avoid any questions, and insure compliance with the law, the District appreciates cooperation with these guidelines.

### **District resources may not be used to support or oppose a candidate.**

To eliminate any appearance that the District is supporting or opposing a specific candidate, District computers, phones, email, copiers, paper, or other resources cannot be used to work on any candidate's campaign. For the same reason, District communication channels (i.e., mailboxes, email, etc.) should not be used to transmit partisan materials or information supporting or opposing a candidate.

### **Employees may campaign during non-work time without using District resources.**

District employees are free to support or oppose any candidate on their personal time, but may not campaign during work hours. Employees are also free to solicit and receive contributions to candidates on their personal time (i.e. non-work time). At no time may District employees use any District resource to support a campaign or solicit contributions.

### **District facilities may be used by candidates subject to District regulations.**

The District may decide to allow candidates or campaigns to use District facilities during non-school hours subject to the District's general policies on facilities use/Civic Center Act policies. If the District allows one candidate or campaign to use District facilities, the same facilities must be made available to any opposition. Campaign materials should not be posted or left at District facilities.

### **Campaigns should not use photos of facilities, personnel, or students.**

Photos taken in District facilities may suggest the District endorses a candidate, which is prohibited by law, and for this reason they should not be used by campaigns. Campaigns may use photos of District employees taken on personal time and which do not include District facilities, nor suggest the District endorses a candidate. Photos of students may not be taken or used without parental permission and may be subject to protection under law.

### **Campaigning is not appropriate on District grounds.**

While candidates or others are free to campaign or seek contributions on their personal time, they may not campaign on District grounds and are subject to prohibitions on interfering with the educational mission of the District. While employees may campaign on District grounds during non-instructional non-work time, the District may prohibit non-employees from campaigning on District grounds at any time.

### **District encourages compliance with Fair Campaigning Practices.**

Pursuant to Board Bylaw 9220, candidates are encouraged to adhere to the Code of Fair Campaigning Practices (Elec. Code, § 20440), to conduct their campaigns openly and publicly, and to not engage in character defamation or dishonest or unethical practices.

*Note: Candidates and their committees are also subject to State and local rules governing elections, see [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov) for more information.*