

## Political Campaign Events in Facilities Under the Control of Texas A&M University-Kingsville



Approved: September 16, 2016

Revised: April 8, 2019

Revised: September 13, 2021

Next Scheduled Review: September 13, 2026

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### Rule Summary

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As a state-supported institution of higher education, Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK) is required to remain neutral in partisan political activities. The university recognizes the constitutional rights and privileges of individual faculty, staff, and students concerning freedom of speech and participation in political events. While TAMUK encourages the free exchange of ideas and will protect freedom of speech, the university maintains its right to impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on expressive activities in facilities under the control of the University.

This rule implements state law and System policy governing political activities in facilities under the control of the University. This rule is required by System Regulation *07.03.01, Political Campaign Events in Facilities Under the Control of The Texas A&M University System*.

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### Rule

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#### 1. ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS

TAMUK may not endorse, recommend, or otherwise indicate political support for any candidate for an elected office, or for any current officeholder of such an office. University employees may not represent their personal political viewpoints as official university endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities.

#### 2. DISCRIMINATION BASED ON POLITICAL VIEWPOINT

TAMUK will not discriminate against any organization or individual on the basis of political affiliation or doctrine, nor will it favor any political organization or doctrine over another.

#### 3. USE OF UNIVERSITY FUNDS, SERVICES, OR FACILITIES

3.1 In accordance with the TAMUS Conflict of Interest, Dual Office Holding and Political Activities Policy (System Policy *07.03*), no TAMUK employee shall expend or authorize the expenditure of any University funds, services, or supplies for the purpose of influencing the outcome of any election, or partisan political activity.

- 3.2 Any individual, university organization, or political party desiring to use TAMUK facilities for campaign or related political events must make a formal request to the President's Chief of Staff. The use of TAMUK facilities for campaign or related political events requires rental fees as well as charges for services utilized by the candidate in accordance with fee schedules and procedures applicable to all non-university entities using university facilities and services. Requests that can be reasonably and safely accommodated without detracting from the purpose and operations of the university will be considered. Non-institutionally affiliated entities will not be discriminated against on the basis of political viewpoint.
- 3.3 Student, faculty, or staff organizations that have been officially recognized and/or approved by TAMUK will be required to go through established procedures for the reservation of facilities.

#### 4. VISITS BY CURRENT POLITICAL OFFICEHOLDERS

When a holder of a political office visits TAMUK, the officeholder shall be afforded all due respect and courtesies to which the officeholder is entitled. However, the officeholders may not engage in any partisan political activities, including campaigning for themselves or on behalf of others, unless they comply with all relevant conditions within this rule. If the nature of an officeholder's visit is not clear prior to arrival, University officials should use their best efforts to determine in advance if the officeholder will be engaging in any partisan activities during the visit. A written statement from the sponsoring campus organization may be requested by the President to clarify the nature of the visit.

#### 5. USE OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY–KINGSVILLE SYMBOLS, INSIGNIA, AND OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS

The use of any TAMUK symbol, insignia, or other identifiable mark in association with any partisan political activity, including campaigns by political candidates, is prohibited.

#### 6. DISCLAIMER STATEMENTS

As a state-supported institution of higher education, TAMUK is required to remain neutral in partisan political activities. TAMUK does not endorse, recommend, or otherwise indicate partisan political support for any candidate for an elected office, or for any current office holder of such an office.

#### 7. VIOLATIONS

Reports of alleged violations of this rule must be reported to the TAMUK Office of Compliance.

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### **Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements**

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[Tex. Edu. Code § 51.9315](#)

[Tex. Gov't Code Ch. 556](#)

[System Policy 07.03, Conflicts of Interest, Dual Office Holding, and Political Activities](#)

[System Regulation 07.03.01, Political Campaign Events in Facilities Under the Control of The Texas A&M University System](#)

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## **Contact Office**

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