

Elections & The Law

Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) regulations severely limit the activities of public employees and expenditure of public funds in connection with election issues.

Special Election | April 25, 2023

Materials, information, and activities in connection with the election will fall into two categories:

INFORMATIONAL

Employees and officials MAY use City resources, equipment, and materials for production and distribution of limited factual information.

We CAN provide:

- ✓ Voter registration information
- ✓ Reminder to "vote"
- ✓ Ballot Dropbox locations
- ✓ Fiscal impacts to the City of a specific ballot measure, if applicable

We are allowed to:

- ✓ Wear election buttons expressing personal belief (depends on City policy)
- ✓ Put signs or bumper stickers on your personal car and park in City parking areas

We can NOT use City time or materials for:

- "Vote YES" or "NO" materials or activities
- Soliciting or collecting money for candidate campaigns or ballot measure committees
- Distributing messages in support or opposition of a candidate or ballot measure
- Organizing election campaign activities for a candidate or ballot measure
- Writing promotional materials
- Mailing promotional materials

PROMOTIONAL

Employees CANNOT use City resources for production and distribution of materials urging support or opposition of a candidate or a ballot measure.

What this means for City employees:

You will be held legally and individually responsible for infractions of the PDC regulations.

You will be personally responsible for paying fines for infractions that result from violating PDC regulations.

Your election activities cannot involve public time, materials, equipment, resources, postage, phone, electronic mail— anything paid for or sustained by public funds.

You may not participate in candidate or ballot measure election activities while wearing clothing or uniforms (shirts, pants, shoes, hats, coats, etc.) paid for by the City.

Your civic involvement in elections is valuable and important. City employees do not forfeit their rights to engage in political activity because of their employment.

All work done on a candidate or a ballot measure committee must be done ON YOUR OWN TIME, using materials, resources, and equipment that DO NOT belong to the City.

