

# The Hatch Act and Federal/Postal Employees

## Permitted & Prohibited Political Activities for NAPS Members

Some NAPS members may avoid participation in the political process because of their mistaken belief that the Hatch Act prohibits their involvement. For some, the Hatch Act may mistakenly represent a convenient excuse for getting involved.

In reality, the Hatch Act (especially since 1994 when it was reformed) permits NAPS members and other postal and federal employees to engage in a wide range of political activities. Some Hatch Act restrictions still remain and it's important for NAPS members to remain within the law. But even those restrictions do not apply to the family members of NAPS members (assuming they are not federal/postal employees) or to retired federal postal/employees.

### **NAPS Members MAY ENGAGE In Any of the Following Political Activities:**

- May be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections
- May register and vote as they choose
- May assist in voter registration drives
- May express opinions about candidates and issues
- May contribute money to SPAC and political organizations
- May attend political fundraising functions
- May solicit, accept or receive political contributions from other NAPS members (but may not solicit from subordinate employees)
- May attend and be active at political rallies and meetings
- May join and be an active member of a political party or club
- May sign nominating petitions
- May campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, municipal ordinances
- May campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections
- May make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections
- May distribute campaign literature in partisan elections
- May hold office in political clubs or parties including serving as a delegate to a convention

### **NAPS Members MAY NOT ENGAGE in Any of the Following Political Activities:**

- May not engage in political activity while on duty
- May not engage in political activity in any government office
- May not engage in political activity while wearing an official uniform
- May not engage in political activity while using a government vehicle
- May not be candidates for public office in partisan elections
- May not wear political buttons on duty
- May not use their official authority or influence to interfere with an election

- May not solicit, accept or receive political contributions unless both individuals are members of the same federal labor organization or employee organization and the one solicited is not a subordinate employee
- May not knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business before the agency
- May not engage in political activity while on duty
- May not engage in political activity in any government office
- May not engage in political activity while wearing an official uniform
- May not engage in political activity while using a government vehicle
- May not be candidates for public office in partisan elections
- May not wear political buttons on duty

For additional questions, contact:

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