

Political Activity Quick Guide

I Am...

An Active Duty Member of the Armed Forces

Active Duty is full-time duty in the active military service of the United States regardless of duration or purpose. Active duty includes the following: full-time training duty, annual training duty, and attendance while in the active military service at a school designated as a Service school by law or by the Secretary concerned. Additionally, for purposes of DoDD 1344.10, Active Duty also includes full-time National Guard duty.

May...
Register, vote, and express a personal opinion on a political candidate and issues in a personal capacity.
Attend partisan and nonpartisan political fundraising activities in civilian clothes and in a private capacity.
Make a monetary contribution to a political party or candidate running for partisan political office.
Engage in nonpartisan political activity, including issue-oriented campaigns (i.e., tax reform, healthcare).
Assist an elderly neighbor vote by providing her with transportation to the polls on Election Day.
Sign a petition for legislative action if the signing is done in a personal capacity.
Park a personal vehicle with one partisan political bumper sticker in a government parking lot.
Write a letter to the editor, in a personal capacity, expressing a personal opinion on a candidate running for partisan political office.
Place a campaign sign in the yard of your home (not on a military installation).
Join a partisan or nonpartisan club and attend meetings in civilian clothes.
Express personal views on public issues or candidates running for partisan political office on a personal social media platform via personal accounts on social media platforms, making no reference to DoW position.
“Follow,” “friend,” or “like” a political party or candidate running for partisan office on a social media platform.

May Not...
Attend partisan and nonpartisan political fundraising activities in military uniform.
Volunteer to work on a campaign of a candidate running for partisan political office.
Engage in political activity in a federal building.
Use your official position or influence to solicit votes for a candidate running for partisan political office, from your coworkers.
Be listed as a sponsor of a partisan political group.
Speak before a partisan political gathering.
Participate in radio/TV/other program as an advocate for or against a partisan political party, candidate running for partisan political office, or cause.
March or ride in a partisan political parade.
Participate in an organized effort to provide voters with transportation to polls if associated with a partisan political party or candidate.
Work or stand at the polls for a candidate running for partisan political office or political party on Election Day.
Solicit, accept, or receive political contributions.
Use official email or government furnished equipment to engage in political activity.
“Share,” or “re-tweet” links from the account of a candidate for partisan political office on your social media account.

Please note that this Quick Guide is not comprehensive. For complete guidance, reference DoDD 1344.10, *Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces*.
 OUSD(P&R), Office of Legal Policy, CAO 26 Feb 26