

# Emery County School District



## Policy GBI—Staff Participation in Political Activities

Date Adopted: 17 August 1988

Current Review / Revision: 10 December 2025

### Use of District Email for Political Purposes

#### Definitions—

1. A “political purpose” means an act done with the intent or in a way to influence, or intend to influence, directly or indirectly, any person to refrain from voting or to vote for or against (a) any candidate for public office at any caucus, political convention, primary, or election, or (b) any judge standing for retention at any election.
2. An initiative means a new law proposed for adoption by the public as provided in [Utah Code Title 20A, Chapter 7](#).
3. A “proposed initiative” means an initiative proposed in an application filed under [Utah Code § 20A-7-202](#) or [Utah Code § 20A-7-502](#).
4. A “referendum” means a process by which a law passed by the Legislature or by a local legislative body is referred to the voters for their approval or rejection.
5. A “proposed referendum” means a referendum proposed in an application filed under [Utah Code § 20A-7-302](#) or [Utah Code § 20A-7-602](#).
6. A “campaign contribution” means any of the following when done for a political purpose or to advocate for or against a ballot proposition:
  - a. a gift, subscription, donation, loan, advance, deposit of money, or anything of value given to a filing entity (an entity subject to campaign and campaign finance reporting requirements);
  - b. an express, legally enforceable contract, promise, or agreement to make a gift, subscription, donation, unpaid or partially unpaid loan, advance, deposit of money, or anything of value to a filing entity;
  - c. any transfer of funds from a reporting entity (a candidate, a candidate’s personal campaign committee, a judge, a judge’s personal campaign committee, an officeholder, a party committee, a political action committee, a political issues committee, a corporation, or a labor organization) to a filing entity;
  - d. compensation paid by any person or reporting entity other than the filing entity for personal services provided without charge to the filing entity;
  - e. remuneration from:
    - i. any organization or the organization’s directly affiliated organization that has a registered lobbyist; or
    - ii. any agency or subdivision of the state, including a school district; or
  - f. an in-kind contribution.

[Utah Code § 20A-7-101\(11\), \(29\) \(2024\)](#)

[Utah Code § 20A-11-101\(3\), \(17\), \(41\) \(2025\)](#)

### **District Email May Not be Used for Political Purposes—**

No person may use any District email system or service for a political purpose, or to solicit a campaign contribution, or to advocate for or against a proposed initiative, initiative, proposed referendum, or referendum. An email sent in violation of this restriction is a record subject to the Government Records Access and Management Act and is not considered a personal note or personal communication.

#### [Utah Code § 20A-11-1205\(1\), \(7\) \(2025\)](#)

This prohibition does not apply in any of the following circumstances:

1. The person sending the email is directly providing information solely to another person or group of people in response to a question asked by the other person or group of people.
2. The information that the person emails is an argument or rebuttal argument prepared under [Utah Code § 20A-7-401.5](#) or [Utah Code § 20A-7-402](#) and the email satisfies all of the requirements of [Utah Code § 20A-11-1205\(5\)\(c\)](#).
3. The person is engaging in:
  - a. Communication solely within the District (with persons who have email accounts in the District's email system); or
  - b. Communication solely with another public entity; or
  - c. Communication solely with the District's legal counsel; or
  - d. Communication solely with the sponsors of the initiative or referendum that the email relates to.

#### [Utah Code § 20A-11-1205\(5\)\(b\), \(c\) \(2025\)](#)

The Emery County School District Board recognizes the right of its employees, as citizens, to engage in political activity. However, the Board also recognizes that school property and school time paid for by all the people of the District should not be used for partisan political purposes except as provided for in policies pertaining to the use of school buildings by civic and political organizations.

Prohibited activities include the posting of political circulars or petitions, collection or solicitation of campaign funds, solicitations for campaign workers, the use of pupils in writing or addressing campaign materials, and the distribution of campaign materials to pupils on school district property or during school time in any manner which would indicate that a school employee is using a position in the school to further personal partisan views on candidates for public office or questions of public policy.

Nothing in this policy will be interpreted as prohibiting teachers from conducting appropriate activities which encourage students to become involved in the political processes of the party of the students' choice or as independents; nor does it prohibit the use of political figures as resource persons in the classroom.