

405.00 - Political Activity

Refer:

- ORS § 260.432, Solicitation of Public Employees
- Multnomah County Code Section 9.220, Political Activity Prohibited
- Multnomah County Code Section 9.230, Political Influence Prohibited
- Multnomah County Personnel Rule 3-20, Political Activity

Definitions:

- Political Activity - An activity directed toward supporting or opposing federal, state, or local measures, candidates, recalls, political committees, or petitions.

Policy:

1. Member Participation in Political Activity:

- 1.1. As Multnomah County Sheriff's Office employees, members may not use their official authority or influence while participating in political activity. Examples of prohibited use of official authority or influence while participating in any political activity include, but are not limited to: using their official title, wearing their official uniform, or any part or likeness thereof, or using a government owned/leased vehicle.
- 1.2. Federal, state and local laws do not restrict the right of Multnomah County Sheriff's Office members to express personal political views. To avoid the use of official authority or influence, members should participate in political activity on their own time, with their own resources (e.g. computers, phones, copy machines, clothing, vehicles, etc.). In addition, members should announce they are acting in their own capacity as a private citizen while engaged in political activity that involves public presentation or speech (e.g. testifying during a public/committee hearing).
- 1.3. State law prohibits a person from requiring, coercing, or commanding a member to engage in political activity, even if that activity would occur on the member's own time and with non-County resources. This is true regardless of whether the activity itself would be lawful or unlawful.
- 1.4. As an elected official, the Sheriff, is subject to a variety of regulations, including political activity regulations. While the Sheriff may not, for example, direct a member to perform political activity or use County resources for campaign purposes, the Sheriff may, for example, advocate a political position at any time.
- 1.5. Members with questions about political activity or who suspect violations of law or policy should report to their chain of command.

Procedure:

1. Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Participation in Political Activity:

- 1.1. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for compiling an annual public safety federal and state legislative agenda.
- 1.2. The Sheriff will designate a Legislative Liaison, to be responsible for advancing the Office's legislative agenda and coordinating Sheriff Office-specific political activities, once approved by the Sheriff.
- 1.3. MCSO members shall notify the Legislative Liaison, anytime interaction with a federal or state official, their staff, or a lobbying interest occurs to ensure a comprehensive response is vetted with the member and the Sheriff's Office. Examples of interaction include, but are not limited to:
 - 1.3.1. A request for information is received about Office practices or position on an issue,
 - 1.3.2. An invitation is received to attend a legislative meeting, hearing, conference or event,
 - 1.3.3. A request is received to host the party via a ride along, site visit, or meeting,
 - 1.3.4. Direction is given to the member within their chain of command to apply for federal or state grant funding, request proclamations, or issue invitations to an MCSO related event or meeting.

History:

- Originating Policy/Procedure: 6/15/17
- Next Review Date: 6/15/19
- Review By: **Sheriff's Office**
- Reviewed 9/11/19
 - No edits, deletions or additions made to originating policy and procedure.
- Next Review Date: 9/11/21
- Review By: Executive Office