



Political Activity

(GEN4)

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the New Orleans Regional Trans Authority (RTA) that political activity not impede operations and follow all ethical and campaign laws.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the prohibited activities and ramifications with respect to political and campaign activities for elective offices.

APPLICATION

The policy shall apply to all Board members, candidates seeking appointment to the Board of Commissioners, labor union officials, Board officers and employees of RTA. This policy also applies to consultants and contractors while on RTA time or while at RTA facilities.

APPROVED:

ADOPTED: Board Chair

Chief Executive Officer

Effective Date: _____

Date of Last Review: _____

1.0 GENERAL

A. Misuse of RTA Resources

1. Any use of RTA Resources for Campaign Activities or other Political Activities is strictly prohibited.
2. Any meetings held at RTA facilities shall avoid all forms of Political or Campaign Activities. Activities including, but not limited to, the endorsement of candidates for public office at RTA and elsewhere, candidate interviews, forums, or question and answer sessions, are further prohibited. This provision also applies to ballot measures.

B. Prohibited Activities

1. No Board Commissioner or candidate seeking appointment to the Board of Commissioners shall solicit or obtain from any RTA employee a contribution of services, money, or any other thing of value for any appointment or campaign purpose.
2. In addition to the activities prohibited in paragraph 1 above, the following activities are strictly prohibited in relation to any measure or candidate:
 - (a) While on RTA time, campaigning for or against the passage of any measure or candidate.
 - (b) Campaigning in RTA uniform.
 - (c) Requesting RTA staff to set up meetings or make arrangements for meetings with interest groups, community organizations, voters, etc. to advocate for or against any measure or candidate, or otherwise using RTA resources to coordinate with a committee established to support or oppose a candidate or ballot measure.
 - (d) Sending out letters that appear to represent the Board of Commissioners or the RTA, with respect to any ballot measure or candidate.



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- (e) Charging any expenses for campaign or political activities to the RTA or seeking any reimbursement from the RTA for those expenses.
- (f) Using RTA funds for bumper stickers, posters, advertising “floats” or television or radio “spots,” or using electronic media to advocate for or against a ballot measure.
- (g) Distributing campaign literature prepared by private proponents or opponents on RTA time or to RTA employees or members of the public at RTA facilities.
- (h) Distributing campaign literature to RTA employees at work or at home while on RTA time or using RTA Resources.
- (i) Posting campaign materials at RTA facilities.
- (j) Taking pictures at any RTA’s facility or function or any means whereby a reasonable person may reasonably conclude RTA supports any ballot measure or candidate.
- (k) Using the RTA’s logo for campaign or political purposes, including, but not limited to, campaign materials

C. Enforcement

1. The use of RTA Resources for campaign activities can result in personal liability and disciplinary action. In addition, under regulations adopted by the **Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics** (R.S. 42:1101-R.S.42:1170), the use of RTA resources to advocate for or against a measure can result in a finding that campaign reporting requirements have been violated which may result in fines for the violation.

2. Anyone seeking guidance with regard to this policy should contact RTA’s Human Capital Office.

2.0 PROCEDURES

N/A



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3.0 DEFINITIONS

“Campaign Activities” shall mean contributions or expenditures of money, goods, time or services to candidates for public office and/or support of or opposition to ballot measures.

“Political Activities” shall mean campaign, or other activities associated with the support or opposition to any ballot measure or the appointment or defeat of a candidate for public office.

“RTA Facility” shall mean any building, operating division, bus, maintenance yard, print shop or other RTA-owned or leased real property.

“RTA Resources” shall mean RTA e-mail, social media accounts or platforms, telephones, copiers, fax machines, computers, office supplies, compensated RTA employee time, or any other RTA resources.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

N/A

5.0 FLOWCHART

N/A

6.0 REFERENCES

N/A

7.0 ATTACHMENTS

N/A

8.0 PROCEDURE HISTORY

N/A

9.0 SPONSOR DEPARTMENT

General Administration