

UVU Employee, Student, and Institutional Protocols for Engagement in Political Activities

UVU faculty, staff and students are encouraged to be politically engaged. However, there are legal limitations on how they may engage as members of the UVU campus community, especially for UVU employees (part- and full-time faculty and staff). The following explains the parameters of proper engagement for state employees and entities as well as students in accordance with Utah's Political Activities of a Public Entity Act (Utah Code Ann. §20A-11-1201, et seq.).

1. **UVU Employees.** As a private citizen and on their own time, any UVU EMPLOYEE may engage in political activities (e.g., run for and hold public office, participate in political party meetings or causes, attend public forums and debates, and take a personal position for or against public referendum). However, a UVU employee (part- or full-time including student employees):
 - a. CANNOT engage in political activities
 - i. during time working for UVU (i.e., on the clock);
 - ii. through the use of UVU owned resources (e.g., university computers, tablets, copiers, paper, etc.);
 - iii. through the use of UVU service (e.g. UVU email or social media accounts);
 - iv. while at work through campaigning tactics (e.g., wearing a political pin in support or opposition of a referendum or telling co-workers how to vote); or
 - v. in a way that gives the impression that they represent UVU and its interests (the exception to this are UVU employees whose job function it is to officially represent UVU and its positions and interests); and
 - b. MAY fully engage in political activities
 - vi. while on their own time (e.g., after work hours or while using personal or vacation leave)
 - vii. through the use of their personally owned equipment and personal email and social media accounts; and
 - viii. by clearly representing their own interests and not UVU's.
2. **UVU Students.** As a private citizen on their own time and through the use of their own resources, any UVU STUDENT may engage in political activities (e.g., encourage other students to register to vote, engage other students through the use of an information table or booth on campus (as per university policy and protocols), and otherwise engage in the political process). However, UVU students:
 - a. CANNOT use their UVU student email to engage politically, and
 - b. when on the clock as a UVU employee (part- or full-time) are subject to the same standards for all UVU employees as stated above.
3. **UVU Student Association.** UVUSA, as a public body of UVU, may support and engage in efforts to encourage students to register to vote (why and how to), to vote (where and through what means they may vote), and to be politically active. UVUSA cannot tell students what political activities or parties they should engage or how to vote on a particular issue or candidate race. However, a student club may, through approved UVUSA sponsored events (e.g., Club Rush, Constitutional Week, etc.) promote its political position on issues and candidates, but must do so within the prescribed protocols of the event.

4. **Utah Valley University.** As a general rule and pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 20A-11-1203, a public entity, which specifically includes a public institution of higher education such as Utah Valley University, CANNOT
- a. tell people how to vote on, or publish an argument for or against, a particular ballot proposition, initiative, or referendum,
 - b. endorse any candidate running for office, or
 - c. make an expenditure from public funds for political purposes or to influence a ballot proposition, initiative, or referendum.

However, a public entity like Utah Valley University MAY

- a. expend donor funds to advocate for or against a ballot proposition, initiative, or referendum,
- b. provide factual information about a ballot proposition, initiative, or referendum to the public so long as that information also grants equal access to both opponents and proponents to the ballot proposition, initiative, or referendum,
- c. provide neutral encouragement for voters to vote,
- d. gather information for, and respond directly to, an individual who makes an inquiry regarding a ballot propositions, initiative, or referendum,
- e. host candidate debates, and
- f. invite elected officials to speak and/or attend a university event.