

07.03.01.C1

Political Campaign Events on Property Under the Control of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Approved: September 13, 2004

Revised: May 12, 2014

Revised: July 7, 2016

Next Scheduled Review: July 7, 2021



Rule Statement

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is required to remain neutral in partisan political activities as a state-supported institution of higher education. The university recognizes the constitutional rights and privileges of individual faculty, staff and students concerning freedom of speech and participation in political events, subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions.

Reason for Rule

This rule implements state law and System policy governing political activities on property under the control of the University.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS

- 1.1 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi must remain neutral in regard to any partisan political activity to maintain its integrity as a public institution. The University may not endorse, support, promote, recommend or otherwise indicate partisan political support for any candidate for an elected office, or for any current officeholder of such an office, nor appear to endorse any stance on constitutional amendments or ballot propositions or any pending legislation. Further, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi expects all faculty, staff and students to avoid any behavior that might reasonably be construed as an official University endorsement or support of political candidates or partisan political activities.
- 1.2 University employees are free to express their personal opinions on any matter, so long as such opinions are not offered as opinions of the University, or The Texas A&M University System. When expressing personal opinions, University employees shall inform their audience before and after presentations that the viewpoints expressed by the University employee are personal to the speaker and are not the official position of the University or The Texas A&M University

System. University employees will conform in every respect to laws and policies governing their employment.

2. DISCRIMINATION BASED ON POLITICAL VIEWPOINT

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will not discriminate against any organization or individual on the basis of political affiliation or doctrine, nor will it favor any political organization or doctrine over another.

3. USE OF UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

3.1 The use of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi facilities by political candidates requires rental fees as well as charges for services utilized by the candidate in accordance with fee schedules and procedures applicable to all non-University entities using University facilities and services. Candidates must adhere to University Rule 41.01.99.C1 Use of University Facilities. Requests that can be reasonably and safely accommodated without detracting from the purpose and operations of the University will be considered.

3.2 Should Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi property or facilities be approved for use by political candidates or parties, a sign with the words that follow must be displayed near the event.

"As a state-supported institution of higher education, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is required to remain neutral in partisan political activities. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi does not endorse, recommend, or otherwise indicate partisan political support for any candidate for an elected office, or for any current office holder of such an office. The use of university facilities and property for this political campaign event is permitted pursuant to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Rule 07.03.01.C2."

4. SPONSORSHIP OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGN MEETINGS, EVENTS OR SPEECHES BY RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS OR FACULTY/STAFF GROUPS

Student organizations that are officially chartered and currently registered with the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Student Activities Office and faculty or staff groups that are recognized by the University, other than faculty or staff groups officially organized and staffed by the University and which were created for the purpose of conducting official University business, may invite candidates for political office or current officeholders to speak at the group's meetings on campus, provided the following conditions are met:

- In sponsoring a partisan political activity on campus, the recognized student organization must notify the President's Office, Community Outreach and Public Affairs before the event occurs.
- In the interest of encouraging and maintaining the exchange of ideas, faculty members have the privilege to invite any guest they wish to speak in class. If the nature of the guest's visit relates to partisan political activity, the faculty member must notify the President's Office and Public Affairs prior to the speaker's visit.

- Adherence to University Rule 11.99.99.C3 Guest Speakers, Lecturers and Entertainers, is expected.
- The organization or group sponsoring an off-campus speaker has the responsibility of making clear the fact that the organization, not the University, is extending the invitation to speak and that any views the speaker may express are his or her own and not necessarily those of The Texas A&M University System or of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.
- Officially chartered and currently registered student organizations may post advertisements for their on-campus political events on the “open board” posting centers on campus, the student organizational web pages, social media, the University’s Facebook page and the iNews email with notification to the Office of Student Success and Engagement. The dates of their events must be clearly printed on all materials.

5. VISITS BY CURRENT OFFICEHOLDERS

When a holder of a political office visits Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, the officeholder shall be afforded all due respect and courtesies to which the officeholder is entitled. However, the officeholders may not engage in any partisan political activities, including campaigning for themselves or on behalf of others, unless they comply with all relevant conditions within this rule. If the nature of an officeholder’s visit is not clear prior to arrival, University officials should use their best efforts to determine in advance if the officeholder will be engaging in any partisan activities during the visit. A written statement from the sponsoring campus organization may be requested by the President or designee to clarify the nature of the visit. If all activities during the officeholder’s visit relate strictly to the person’s official duties in their current office, this rule is not applicable.

6. USE OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI SYMBOLS, INSIGNIA, AND OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS

The use of any Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi symbol, insignia, or other identifiable mark in association with any partisan political activity, including campaigns by political candidates, is prohibited. (See System Policy 09.02 Use of System Names and Indicia.)

7. DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi reserves the right to require that a statement be made prior to the presentation of any speaker that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the institution or the sponsoring group.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

Texas A&M University System Regulation [07.03.01, Political Campaign Events on Property Under Control of The Texas A&M University System](#)

Texas A&M University System Regulation [09.02, Use of System Names and Indicia](#)

Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi Rule [11.99.99.C3 Guest Speakers, Lecturers and Entertainers](#)

Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi Rule [41.01.99.C1 Use of University Facilities](#)

This rule supersedes:

- *07.03.01.C2, Political Campaign Events on Property Under the Control of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi*

Contact Office

Contact for Interpretation: Vice President for Institutional Advancement at (361) 825-5749