

PROCEDURE LIT.1.04.08  
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

**SCOPE:** Faculty and Staff

1. *Use of System Funds or Property.* No Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) employee shall expend or authorize the expenditure of any LIT funds for the purpose of influencing the outcome of any election, or the passage or defeat of any legislative measure. This prohibition does not extend to furnishing information or facts pertinent to the official duties and responsibilities of Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT).
2. *Entertainment.* If a LIT employee provides tickets to a public official to allow the official and/or his guests to attend an event, an officer or employee of LIT will serve as host to the official and must attend the event.
3. *Perishable Food Items.* Lamar Institute of Technology employees may provide public officials with small, infrequent gifts of perishable food items delivered to their offices. These are not considered to be "benefits" for purposes of the provisions of the Penal Code prohibiting such.
4. *Expenses for Public Officials.* Lamar Institute of Technology may pay expenses in order to furnish information to state officials relevant to their official position, including presentations about the programs and services of the Texas State University System and its Components.
5. *Use of Official Authority Prohibited.*
  - 5.1. No LIT employee may use his or her official authority or influence, or permit the use of a program administered by the System to interfere with or affect the result of an election or nomination of a candidate or to achieve any other political purpose.
  - 5.2. No LIT employee may do any act or attempt to interfere with anyone who seeks to pay, lend, or contribute private funds or private property to a person or political organization for political purposes.

Any employee who violates either of these provisions is subject to immediate termination of employment, in accordance with the Government Code.

6. *Use of System Funds or Property.*
  - 6.1. No LIT employee shall expend or authorize the expenditure of any LIT funds for the purpose of influencing the outcome of any election, or the passage or defeat of any legislative measure.
  - 6.2. Lamar Institute of Technology funds may not be expended for the payment of full or partial salary of any employee who is also the paid lobbyist of any individual, firm, association, or corporation.
  - 6.3. Lamar Institute of Technology facilities may be used as polling places for local, state, and national elections.
7. *Voting and Political Participation.* As employees of the State of Texas, LIT employees have the rights of freedom of association and political participation guaranteed by the state and federal constitutions, except as limited by valid state laws.

7.1. Lamar Institute of Technology employees shall be allowed sufficient time off to vote in public elections without a deduction from pay or from accrued leave time.

8. Political Campaign Events on System Property. The President of LIT shall be responsible for promulgating rules for the regulation of political campaign meetings or speeches and other activities relating to political campaigns on property under his or her control. Such regulations shall be implemented by the Chancellor after approval by the Board of Regents.

9. Employees as Candidates and Officeholders. Lamar Institute of Technology employees may run for election and serve as members of the governing bodies of school districts, cities, towns, or other local governmental districts.

9.1. No campaign activities may be conducted during official business hours unless the employee has requested and received permission to use leave time for such a purpose.

9.2. Any employee elected to such a position may not receive any salary for serving as a member of such governing bodies.

10. Political Contributions from Employees. Lamar Institute of Technology employees may make personal contributions to candidates for office and political organizations, with the exception that no state employee may contribute personal services, money, or goods of value to a candidate campaigning for speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

11. Interaction with Legislature. No contacts on behalf of LIT, its programs or the System to the Legislature shall be made without the specific approval of the LIT President who shall inform the System Administration Office. Information, not considered under law to be confidential, which is requested by a member of the Legislature or committee or by any other state official or employee and which relates to proposed or pending legislation, shall be furnished to the requesting party and the System Administration Office informed of the request and information provided.

11.1. The President shall be responsible for advising LIT employees of this rule at the start of each legislative session.

**Related Policies:** LIT.1.04

**Relevant Forms/Documents:**

**Relevant TSUS Policies/Forms/Documents:** TSUS Rules and Regulations, Chapter VIII. Ethics Policy for Regents and Employees of the Texas State University System; TSUS Rules and Regulations, Chapter V, Component Employees, 2.4. Standards of Conduct

**Relevant Statutes:**

**Relevant SACSOC Standards:**

**Document History:**

*Adopted:*

*Reviewed:*

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