



## Ballot Measure 22-166

May 16, 2017 Election

# Bond Measure Providing Matching Funds for Safety, Security and Facility Improvements

### Restrictions on Political Campaigning by Public Employees

Public employees, such as teachers, administrators and other education staff, must follow rules during political elections, such as school bond measures.

This is a quick reference guide to the basic restrictions on political campaigning by public employees. A more comprehensive, detailed document can be found on the Oregon Secretary of State's Elections Division website: <http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/restrictions.pdf>

Generally, ORS 260.432 states that a public employee may not, while on the job during working hours, promote or oppose election petitions, candidates, political committees or ballot measures. Additionally, no person (including elected officials) may require a public employee (at any time) to do so.

### Prohibited Activities

A public employee, while on the job during work hours, **may not**:

- Prepare or distribute written material, post website information, transmit emails or make a presentation that advocates for or against a political position.
- Collect funds, prepare filing forms or correspondence on behalf of political committees.
- Make outgoing calls to schedule or organize campaign events or other political activity on behalf of a political committee.
- Grant unequal access to public facilities to political committees.
- Direct other public employees to participate in political activities when in the role of a supervisor.
- Draft, type, format or edit a governing body's (i.e., school board) resolution that advocates a political position (except to conform the resolution to a standard format).
- Prepare or give recommendations to the governing body urging which way to vote on such a resolution.
- Sign such a resolution.
- Announce the governing body's position on such a resolution to the media.
- Include the governing body's position on such a resolution in a jurisdiction's (school district's) newsletter or other publication.

### Allowable Activities:

A public employee, while on the job during working hours, **may**:

- Prepare or distribute **impartial** written material or make an **impartial** presentation that discusses election subjects.
- Perform standard job duties, such as taking minutes at a public meeting, maintaining public records, opening mail, inserting a proposed resolution into a board agenda packet.
- Impartially** advise employees about possible effects of a measure, but not threaten them with financial loss to vote a particular way.
- Address election-related issues while on the job **in a factual and impartial manner** if such activity is legitimately within the scope of normal duties.
- Prepare **neutral, factual** information for a governing body to use in determining what position to take on an issue.
- In a clerical manner, incorporate amendments into a finalized version of a governing body's resolution.
- Respond to public records requests for information, even if the material advocates a political position.
- Wear political buttons subject to applicable employee policies.
- A public employee, on off duty time, may send letters to the editor that advocate a political position and may participate in other lawful political activities, including campaign committees.*