

POLITICAL ACTIVITY (Municipal Elections) Frequently Asked Questions

Definitions – see Appendix

Can I run for municipal council?

Unrestricted Employees

Yes, you can run as a councilor or mayor. The *Nunavut Public Service Act and Regulations* do not present specific barriers for unrestricted employees who wish to run for municipal government as councilors or mayors.

Restricted Employees

Yes, you can run as a councilor or mayor. However, the *Nunavut Public Service Regulations* (Sect. 50(2)) state “An employee in the category of restricted employees may not hold the office of mayor of a municipality”. This means, as a restricted employee, that if elected as mayor, you must resign from the GN.

Can I put up a campaign sign at my residence to support a candidate?

Yes.

Can I make a financial contribution to a candidate’s campaign?

Yes. However, as an employee, you may not actively solicit funds for a candidate in the workplace, at any time. This includes all government offices and locations.

Can I go door to door campaigning with, or on behalf of, a candidate?

Yes, but not in the workplace, at any time. This includes all government offices and locations.

Can I wear a candidate’s campaign button or display campaign information at work?

No. You cannot engage in any political activity in the workplace, at any time. This includes the display any political literature or material in any government offices and locations.

Can I attend political meetings?

Yes. However, you cannot publicly criticize the GN or use information that you acquired through your position in the GN.

Can I use the GN email to forward campaign literature and information?

No. As an employee, you cannot use any GN office, equipment or services (other than leased residential premises) for the purposes of municipal election campaigning.

Appendix

Definitions

Restricted employees:

- Deputy Ministers and Assistant Deputy Ministers
- Chief Executive Officers and Presidents of Corporations or agencies of the GN
- Heads of secretariats of the Executive Council
- Directors
- Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors
- Division Directors
- Staff of the Department of Human Resources, other than secretarial or clerical staff
- Staff of Cabinet, other than secretarial staff, clerical staff and executive assistants of current ministers
- Superintendents of Education

Unrestricted employees:

- All other employees, including teachers, who do not fit into the definition of restricted employees.

For further information, please see the following reference materials:

Nunavut Public Service Regulations, Sections 48 to 51 (General)

Nunavut Public Service Regulations, Schedule, Form 1, Section 51 (Oath of Office and Secrecy)

Senior Managers' Handbook, Municipal Elections (page 45)

Human Resources Manual, Directive 201 (Oath of Office and Secrecy)

Human Resources Manual, Directive 204 (Political Activities)

These Frequently Asked Questions are intended as a guide only and are not intended to alter the effect of existing legislation. If you have any questions about allowable activities for GN employees during a municipal election campaign, please contact: Policy and Planning Division, Department of Human Resources, 975-6206