

# NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

SERIES 4000: SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

P4080

## POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

### General

School employees are encouraged to assume full democratic citizenship rights and responsibilities, discussing social, political, and economic issues of the day in public meetings; supporting candidates; accepting appointed or elective public office consistent with state statutes; and holding office in political parties.

### Performance of Civic Duties by Employees

Employees are encouraged to perform civic duties commensurate with democratic ideals, including:

1. voting and taking an interest in the social, political, and economic issues of the day.
2. exercising democratic rights and responsibilities which are shared in common with other citizens. These rights and privileges may include:
  - a. electioneering for candidates.
  - b. accepting positions in political campaigns.
  - c. holding an office in a political party organization.
  - d. serving as a delegate to political party conventions.

### Individual Responsibility in Participating in Political Functions

Employees engaging in political activities shall:

1. honor their primary obligation to their work as educators.
2. endeavor to make others understand that their statements and actions are made or taken as individuals and not as representatives of the school system.
3. not engage in political activities on school premises during school hours or at school activities if attending in his/her capacity as an employee of the district.

### **Personal Leave for Political Activities**

Leaves of absence without pay for political activities may be granted upon proper request and mutual agreement and consistent with state statutes, and so long as it can be accomplished without disruption of educational process. Any leaves of absence that are granted may be time limited as appropriate.

Legal Reference: C.G.S. § 7-421 Political activities of classified municipal employees, leaves of absence.  
C.G.S. § 7-421b Limitations on restriction of political rights of municipal employees.  
C.G.S. § 10-156e Employees of boards of education permitted to serve as elected officials; exception.

Policy Adopted: 2/15/07