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PRESS RELEASE

Ethics Law Reminders for Public Officers and Employees During Election Year

CARSON CITY, NEVADA (March 9, 2022) – Election year often brings excitement as different candidates and campaigns wage battles of ideas for how to better our communities and State. However, use of government resources or information for campaign activity can spell ethics trouble for public officers and employees.

The Nevada Commission on Ethics is reminding public officers and employees about Nevada's ethics laws related to campaign season. Notably, NRS 281A.520(1) mandates that "a public officer or employee shall not request or otherwise cause a governmental entity to incur an expense or make an expenditure to support or oppose (a) A ballot question or (b) A candidate" This is an especially important provision for those public officers or employees who are running for office to keep in mind.

In addition, NRS 281A.400(2) prohibits a public officer or employee from using "the public officer's or employee's position in government to secure or grant unwarranted privileges, preferences, exemptions or advantages for the public officer or employee..."

Examples where campaign activity has been found to be an ethics violation include when:

- A School District Trustee instructed a district employee to send an email to constituents related to a ballot measure.
- A County Assessor used government materials to create "anti-recall" campaign signs when she was targeted with a recall.
- A State Controller used state staff and computer equipment to support her re-election campaign.

Public officers and employees can request advisory opinions and any individual can submit an ethics complaint online at <https://ethics.nv.gov/>

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MISSION STATEMENT: The Nevada Commission on Ethics strives to enhance the public's faith and confidence in government by ensuring that public officers and public employees uphold the public trust by committing themselves to avoid conflicts between their private interests and their public duties