

Campaign Season Compliance Resources

Ethical Campaigns Quick Reference Sheet



Compliance with the Nevada Ethics Law During Campaign Season: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do all political candidates have to follow the Nevada Ethics Law (NRS 281A)?

A: No. The Ethics Law only applies to current public officers and employees. If a candidate is not presently serving in a public position, they are not bound by NRS 281A.

See the Jurisdiction section of the [Ethics Manual](#) for a thorough outline of the jurisdiction of the Commission and definition of public officer and employees.

This resource is for educational purposes only. It's not meant to replace legal advice or the Nevada Ethics Laws ([NRS Chapter 281A](#)). If you need legal interpretation for a specific issue, please consult your agency's legal team or [seek an advisory opinion](#) from the Commission.

Q: How can I make a political endorsement while complying with the Ethics Law?

A: Whether endorsing yourself, another candidate, or a ballot measure, you must make it abundantly clear the endorsement is personal and not made in your official capacity or on behalf of your public agency.

You may use your official title in a way that simply identifies you (e.g., "Tiffany Liu, County Commissioner"), as long as it doesn't imply agency support.

Avoid endorsements that appear to be coming from your government office or suggest the agency itself supports the candidate or measure.

Q: My supervisor asked me to help with campaign activities. Isn't that against the law?

A: Yes, and there are several provisions in NRS 281A that prohibit this:

- NRS 281A.400(9): Public officers and employees must not use their position to influence a subordinate for personal or others' benefit.
- NRS 281A.400(2): You may not use your role to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages.
- NRS 281A.400(7): Government time, property, equipment, and other resources must not be used for personal or campaign-related purposes.

Case example: [*In Re Kathy Augustine, Comm'n Op. No. 04-47 \(2004\)*](#) Augustine was found in violation of the Ethics Law for using staff time and government resources for campaign purposes.

Q: Can I wear campaign gear at work?

A: Wearing campaign items like buttons or shirts while on duty or in public-facing roles could create the appearance of official endorsement. When in doubt, err on the side of neutrality during work hours or while representing your agency.

Q: How do I avoid ethics violations while campaigning on social media?

A: By not using government accounts or posting during work time or using work social media for personal or campaign promotion. If you include your title in a personal post, be sure it's clear the message reflects your personal opinion.

The best ethical practice for public officers or employees who are also candidates for office is to maintain separate official and campaign social media presences in order to make it crystal clear that communications from any official account are not related to promotion of a candidacy and those on the campaign account are for private campaign purposes. [In re Mayberry, Panel Determination Case No. 22-050C \(2022\)](#)

Q: Can I host a campaign event at a government building?

A: No. Public buildings, resources, and equipment must not be used for campaign activities. That includes office printers, government vehicles, or even your work email.

Q: What would be helpful to review in preparation for campaign season?

- Improper Benefits & Jurisdiction of the Commission sections of the [Ethics Manual](#)
- A public officer is permitted to join in support of a petition campaign and advocate in favor of the campaign in their private capacity as long as they avoid using any public agency resources or their work time when doing so, including any non-public information. [In re Public Officer, Advisory Opinion No. 25-206A \(2025\)](#)
- Public officer using official title to endorse a political candidate [In re Public Officer, Advisory Opinion No. 19-124A \(2020\)](#)
- Avoiding creating the appearance of a government agency endorsing a political candidate [In re Mayberry, Panel Determination Case No. 22-050C \(2022\)](#)
- Public officer must avoid using official public office social media or other public resources, including public agency email or contact information, in support of campaign [In re Seaman, Comm'n Op. No. 23-143A \(2024\)](#)
- Public resources cannot be used in any way to endorse, or appear to endorse, a candidate for office, even if there would be no additional cost to the public agency [In re Parrish, Comm'n Op. No. 12-64C \(2013\)](#) and [In re Haldeman, Comm'n Op. No. 13-25C \(2013\)](#)
- Avoiding promoting campaign at community events held by the public agency, avoiding promoting said community events in campaign promotions, and avoiding using public resources or channels to promote the campaign or other private events [In re Public Officer, Advisory Opinion No. 25-015A \(2025\)](#)