

Medina Police Department

Subject: Political Activity		Policy Number: 1030	Political Activity 1030
Reference: Medina City Policy 3.20 Political Activities		Pages: 2	
Personnel: Sworn and Non-Sworn Personnel			
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1030.1 – POLICY

Police officers share the individual right to engage in political and other protected first amendment activity. However, police should not use their authority or the indicia of office, such as the uniform or title, for this purpose because of its inherently coercive nature; nor should they engage in collective political activity which compromises their ability to view objectively conflicts with which they may be called upon to deal.

1030.2 – SCOPE

Officers on duty shall be permitted to:

- (1) Register and vote in elections.
- (2) Express opinions as individuals privately on political issues and candidates.

Officers off duty shall be permitted to:

- (1) Attend political conventions, rallies, fundraising functions, and similar political gatherings.
- (2) Actively engage in any nonpartisan political organization.
- (3) Sign political petitions as individuals.
- (4) Make financial contributions to political organizations.
- (5) Serve as election judges or clerks, or in a similar position, to perform nonpartisan duties as prescribed by state or local laws.
- (6) Hold membership in a political party and participate in its functions to the extent consistent with the law and consistent with this section.
- (7) Otherwise participate fully in public affairs, except as provided by law, to the extent that such endeavors do not impair the neutral and efficient performance of official duties or create real or apparent conflicts of interest.

Officers are prohibited from:

- (1) Using their official capacity to influence, interfere with, or affect the results of an election.
- (2) Becoming candidates for or campaigning for elective public office without first obtaining permission from the Chief of Police. If elected to a position that requires an extended leave of absence, the absence must be approved by the City council. If elected to the City of Medina public office, the employee must resign his/her position with the City.
- (3) Initiating or circulating a partisan nominating petition in an official capacity.
- (4) Organizing, selling tickets to, or actively participating in a fund-raising function for a partisan political party or candidate in an official capacity.
- (5) Addressing political gatherings in support of, or in opposition to, a partisan candidate in an official capacity.