

# UR 07.03.01.H1 Political Campaign Events and Partisan Political Activities on University Property



Approved: October 2, 2017  
Next Scheduled Review: October 2, 2022

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## Rule Statement

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As a state-supported institution of higher education, Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) is required to remain neutral in partisan political activities. Individual faculty, staff and students continue to enjoy the constitutional rights and privileges concerning freedom of speech and participation in political events. Such events, however, on the A&M-Texarkana campus are subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions.

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## Reason for Rule

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This rule provides guidance concerning the use of A&M-Texarkana property and facilities for political activities and events and complies with [System Regulation 07.03.01, Political Campaign Events on Property Under the Control of the Texas A&M University System](#).

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## Procedures and Responsibilities

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### 1. ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS

- 1.1 A&M-Texarkana cannot endorse, support or promote any political candidate (either incumbents or new office seekers, members of their staffs, or their campaign representatives) or any partisan political activity. Furthermore, it is the intent and expectation of A&M-Texarkana that all faculty, staff, and students avoid any behavior that could reasonably be interpreted as official university endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities.
- 1.2 University employees are free to express their personal opinions on any matter, so long as such opinions are not offered as opinions of the University or the Texas A&M University System. Nothing in this rule should be construed to limit the right or ability of any member of the university community to express personal opinions in accordance with [System Policy 07.03, Conflicts of Interest, Dual Office Holding and Political Activities](#), or to exercise his or her right to engage in political activities outside his or her official capacity or affiliation with the university, within the limits of [System Policy 07.01, Ethics](#).

## **2. DISCRIMINATION BASED ON POLITICAL VIEWPOINT**

A&M-Texarkana will not discriminate against any organization or individual on the basis of political affiliation or doctrine, nor will it favor any political organization or doctrine over another.

## **3. USE OF UNIVERSITY FUNDS, SERVICES OR FACILITIES**

3.1 In accordance with [System Policy 07.03, Conflicts of Interest, Dual Office Holding and Political Activities](#), no A&M-Texarkana employee shall expend or authorize the expenditure of any university funds, services, or supplies for the purpose of influencing the outcome of any election or partisan political activity.

3.2 Should A&M-Texarkana property or facilities be approved for use by political candidates or parties, a sign with the words that follow must be displayed near the event.

*“By policy Texas A&M University-Texarkana is required to remain neutral in political activities. The use of A&M-Texarkana facilities and property by candidates and political organizations does not imply or indicate support for any candidate or political party.”*

3.3 Recognized student organizations and faculty and staff groups (other than faculty or staff groups officially organized and staffed by the university and which were created for the purpose of conducting official university business) may sponsor candidates for political office or current officeholders to speak at a university event in accordance with all applicable university requirements. In sponsoring a partisan political activity on campus, a recognized student organization or faculty/staff group must be responsible for seeking the appropriate approvals for any space requests and communicating and collaborating with the appropriate University officials about the event.

3.4 The organization or group sponsoring an off-campus speaker has the responsibility of making clear the fact that the organization, not the university, is extending the invitation to speak and that any views the speaker may express are his or her own and not necessarily those of The Texas A&M University System or A&M-Texarkana.

## **4. VISITS BY CURRENT OFFICEHOLDERS**

When a holder of a political office visits A&M-Texarkana, the officeholder shall be afforded all due respect and courtesies to which the officeholder is entitled. However, the officeholders may not engage in any partisan political activities, including campaigning for themselves or on behalf of others, unless they comply with all relevant conditions within this rule. If the nature of an officeholder’s visit is not clear prior to arrival, University officials should use their best efforts to determine in advance if the officeholder will be engaging in any partisan activities during the visit. A written statement from the sponsoring campus organization may be requested by the President or designee to clarify the nature of the visit.

## **5. USE OF SYMBOL, INSIGNIA OR MARKS**

The use of any A&M-Texarkana symbol, insignia, or other identifiable mark in association with any partisan political activity, including campaigns by political candidates, is prohibited.

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### **Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements**

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[System Policy 07.03, Conflicts of Interest, Dual Office Holding, and Political Activities](#)

[System Regulation 07.03.01, Political Campaign Events on Property Under the Control of The Texas A&M University System](#)

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### **Contact Office**

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