



Political Activity Policy

I. Purpose

This policy provides direction and guidelines to all Department of Human Services senior facilities regarding allowable and prohibited political activities at a City-operated Senior Comprehensive Center and/or Nutrition Site. The policy is for the protection of centers from political pressure, to prohibit use of City of San Antonio resources for political purposes and to avoid the appearance of bias or favoritism.

II. Definitions

The following definitions and acronyms apply to the terms used in this policy.

- **Centers:** All City-operated Senior Comprehensive Centers and Nutrition Sites.
- **DHS:** Department of Human Services.
- **Candidates:** New political candidates, as well as any currently-sitting officials running for office.

III. Policy

Allowable Activities:

- Centers are encouraged to inform seniors about voting procedures and their rights as citizens. Local groups may be called to explain sample ballots and voting procedures.
- Candidates for public office or their representatives are invited to frequent the common or public areas of the center and mingle informally at any time so long as they do not disrupt Center activities and they abide by all provisions of this policy.
- Seniors may wear candidate t-shirts as they have the right to express their political beliefs.
- Candidates may provide gifts to the centers for all seniors to enjoy, such as healthy refreshments or flowers, without political slogans or names on the items.

Prohibited Activities:

- Candidates for any public office may not address senior participants via political speech or campaign presentations.
- Candidates, or their representatives, may not display political messages, slogans, or advertisements, or candidate names on center property at any time. This includes any display, such as on buttons, t-shirts, caps, vehicles, etc.
- Candidates may not provide gifts to the center or senior participants with political messages, slogans, advertisements, or candidate names.
- Political or campaign materials may not be distributed at the centers or at any senior events by candidates, their representatives or senior participants, such as literature, buttons, posters or any other campaign material.
- Political or campaign materials may not be posted, distributed, or left in centers.
- City vehicles may not be used to transport seniors to political activities.
- Centers may not endorse any candidate, party or issue.