

ARTICLE 5. CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT EFFECTIVE DATE: 05/04/98
RULE 502. POLITICAL ACTIVITY REVISED DATE:

A. GENERAL: Arizona Supreme Court Order 97-41, signed by Chief Justice Thomas A. Zlaket, provides direction and guidance to Judicial employees pertaining to political activity. This Order, and the policy of the Superior Court in Mohave County, are directed at ensuring that the administration of justice remains free of partisan and other political consideration by maintaining the neutrality of the Judiciary on political matters. Where political activities are allowed under this Rule, they must be carried out in such a manner as not to give the impression that the Judiciary itself endorses political candidates or supports political causes, except when assigned to do so regarding measures to improve the law, legal system or the administration of justice. Employees who exercise their rights to political activity and expression must maintain neutrality in appearance and action when performing their duties on behalf of the Judiciary.

B. PERMISSIBLE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES: Subject to the limitations imposed in Supreme Court Order 97-41 and this Rule, Judicial employees may:

1. Register and vote in any election.
2. Express their opinion as an individual privately and publicly.
3. Display a political picture, sticker, bag or button.
4. Participate in the non-partisan activities of a civic community, social or professional organization.
5. Be a member of a political party or other political organization and participate in its activities to the extent consistent with law and this Rule.
6. Attend a political party convention, fundraising function, caucus or similar gathering of a political party in support of or in opposition to a partisan candidate for public office or political party office.
7. Sign a political petition as an individual.
8. Make a financial contribution to a political candidate, party or organization. Contributions to a Judge's or Clerk of Superior Court's election or re-election efforts may only be made through such Judge's or Clerk of Superior Court's campaign committee.
9. Be politically active in connection with a question which is not specifically identified with a political party such as constitutional amendment, referendum approval of a municipal ordinance or any other question or issue of a similar character.
10. Serve as an election judge or clerk or in a similar position to perform non-partisan

duties as prescribed by state or local law.

11. Advocate politically on behalf of the law, legal system or administration of justice when specifically so authorized by the Presiding Judge.

C. CANDIDACY FOR OFFICE - PARTISAN:

1. Judicial employees may be candidates for partisan political offices provided that:
 - a. the employee is authorized to take an unpaid leave of absence;
 - b. the leave of absence begins prior to any public declaration of intention to seek office, including the filing of campaign papers;
 - c. the leave of absence further begins prior to any fundraising for the employee's campaign;
 - d. the employee publicly discloses that they are on a leave of absence from the Court; and
 - e. if elected, the employee resigns from Court employment prior to assuming office.

D. CANDIDACY FOR OFFICE - NON-PARTISAN:

1. Judicial employees may be candidates for non-partisan elective office without taking an unpaid leave of absence from Court employment if:
 - a. the employee first seeks permission from the Presiding Judge;
 - b. the Presiding Judge determines that the office sought is consistent with Judicial employment; and
 - c. the employee otherwise complies with this Rule.

E. PROHIBITED POLITICAL ACTIVITY:

1. Employees shall not, during work hours, display literature, badges, stickers, signs or other advertisements on behalf of any party, political committee, agency or candidate for political office.
2. Use their official authority or position, directly or indirectly, to influence or attempt to influence any other employee to become a member of any political organization or

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to take part in any political activity.

3. Employees may not be required by supervisory personnel or elected officials to participate in political activities or donate funds for any political purpose.
4. Employees shall not be discriminated against, nor discriminate against other employees, for reasons of permitted political activity or political party affiliation or association.
5. Use any political endorsement in connection with any appointment to a position in the Judicial service.

F. QUESTIONS:

Questions regarding appropriate and inappropriate political activity which are not addressed under the provisions of this Rule shall be referred in writing to the Presiding Judge. The determination of the Presiding Judge shall be final.