



Texas A&M University-San Antonio

07.03.01.01 Political Campaign Events in Facilities Under the Control of Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Approved: January 24, 2011

Revised: February 5, 2017

Revised: September 16, 2021

Next Scheduled Review: September 16, 2026

Rule Statement

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-San Antonio) is required to remain neutral in partisan political activities as a state-supported institution of higher education. The University recognizes the constitutional rights and privileges of individual faculty, staff and students concerning freedom of speech and participation in political events, subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions.

Reason for Rule

This rule implements state law and Texas A&M University System (A&M System) policy governing political activities on property under the control of the University.

Official Rule

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As a state institution of higher education, A&M-San Antonio is required to remain neutral in partisan political activities. A&M-San Antonio will adhere to all requirements contained within System Regulation *07.03.01, Political Campaign Events in Facilities Under the Control of The Texas A&M University System*. Individual faculty, staff and students enjoy all constitutional rights and privileges concerning freedom of speech and participation in political events. Such events, however, on the A&M-San Antonio campus are subject to reasonable time, place and safety restrictions.
- 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 A&M System. When expressing personal opinions, University employees will inform their audience before and after presentations that the viewpoints expressed by the University employee are personal to the speaker and are not the official position of the University or the A&M System. University employees will conform in every respect to laws and policies governing their employment.

2. ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS

- 2.1 It is critical for A&M-San Antonio to remain neutral concerning any partisan political activity in order to maintain its integrity as a public institution. Therefore, the University will not endorse, support, promote, recommend or otherwise indicate partisan political support for any candidate for an elected office, or for any current officeholder of such an office, nor appear to endorse any stance on constitutional amendments or ballot propositions or any pending legislation. Further, A&M-San Antonio expects all faculty, staff and students to avoid any behavior that might be reasonably construed as an official University endorsement or support of political candidates or partisan political activities.

3. DISCRIMINATION BASED ON POLITICAL VIEWPOINT

- 3.1 A&M-San Antonio 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.

4. USE OF UNIVERSITY FUNDS, SERVICES OR FACILITIES

- 4.1 In accordance with the A&M System Ethics Policy (System Policy 07.01), no A&M-San Antonio 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.
- 4.2 The use of A&M-San Antonio facilities by political candidates requires rental fees as well as charges for services utilized by the candidate in accordance with fee schedules and procedures applicable to all non-university entities using University facilities and services. Candidates must adhere to A&M-San Antonio Procedure 21.99.09.00.01 *Facility Usage Guidelines*. Requests that can be reasonably and safely accommodated without detracting from the purpose and operations of the University will be considered.
- 4.3 Should A&M-San Antonio 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. *"As a state-supported institution of higher education, Texas A&M University-San Antonio is required to remain neutral in partisan political activities. Texas A&M University-San Antonio does not endorse, recommend, or otherwise indicate partisan political support for any candidate for an elected office, or for any current office holder of such an office. The use of university facilities and property for this political campaign event is permitted pursuant to A&M-SA Rule 07.03.01.01."*

5. SPONSORSHIP OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGN MEETINGS, EVENTS OR SPEECHES BY RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS OR FACULTY/STAFF GROUPS

- 5.1 Student organizations that are officially chartered and currently registered with the A&M-San Antonio Student Activities Office and faculty or staff groups that are recognized by the University, 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 invite candidates for political office or current officeholders to speak at the group's meetings on campus, provided the following conditions are met:

- 5.1.1 In sponsoring a partisan political activity on campus, the recognized student organization must notify the President's Office and University Communications before the event occurs.
- 5.1.2 In the interest of encouraging and maintaining the exchange of ideas, faculty members have the privilege to invite any guest they wish to speak in class. If the nature of the guest's visit relates to partisan political activity, the faculty member must notify the President's Office and University Communications prior to the speaker's visit.
- 5.1.3 The organization or group sponsoring an off-campus speaker has the responsibility of making clear to invitees 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 A&M System or of A&M-San Antonio.
- 5.1.4 Officially chartered and currently registered student organizations may post advertisements for their on-campus political events on the approved posting centers on campus, the student organizational web pages and social media with notification to the Vice President of Student Success and Engagement.
- 5.1.5 In the event the campus is used as an official polling place, the official elections and campaign rules and regulations of that election will supersede A&M-San Antonio political campaign advertising regulations.

6. VISITS BY CURRENT POLITICAL OFFICEHOLDERS

- 6.1 When a holder of a political office visits A&M-San Antonio, the officeholder will 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 must 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. If all activities during the officeholder's visit relate strictly to the person's official duties in their current office, this rule is not applicable.

7. USE OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO SYMBOLS, INSIGNIA, AND OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS

- 7.1 The use of any A&M-San Antonio symbol, insignia, or other identifiable mark in association with any partisan political activity, including campaigns by political candidates, is prohibited. (See System Regulation 07.03.01.)

8. DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

8.1 A&M-San Antonio reserves the right to require that a statement be made prior to the presentation of any speaker that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the institution or the sponsoring group.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

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

Contact Office

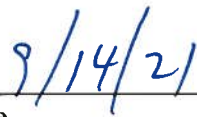
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System Approvals*

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:




Ray Bonilla
General Counsel

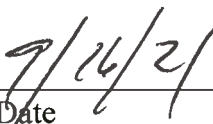


Date

Approved:



John Sharp
Chancellor



Date

***System approvals are contingent upon incorporation of any and all System-required changes in the rule's final posting.**