


MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST

Overtown Transit Village North
701 Northwest 1st Court · 8th Floor · Miami, Florida 33136
Phone: (305) 579-2594 · Facsimile: (305) 579-0273
Website: ethics.miamidade.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: All County and Municipal Elected Officials and Employees

FROM: Jose J. Arrojo, Executive Director
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust 

RE: Limitations on Political Activities of County and Municipal Officers and Employees

DATE: July 9, 2021

As we approach fall and winter election dates in a number of our cities, together with our partner agencies, this annual reminder serves the purpose of underscoring limitations on the political activities of all county and municipal officers and employees during the current and upcoming election season. **There is a new reminder contained in this memorandum.**

The following limitations are imposed by Florida Statute, Sections 104.31 and 106.15, by the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance at Section 2-11.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, and other state laws, local ordinances and previously issued administrative orders:

- While all local officials and employees have a right to engage in political campaign activities, they must not use their official authority to influence another person's vote or to affect the outcome of an election.
- County and municipal staff wishing to be involved in political campaigns should limit such activity to off-duty hours.
- **Paid political campaign work constitutes outside employment for county and municipal employees and must be reported to the supervisor of elections for county employees and to the municipal clerk for city employees.**
- Political campaign activities may not involve the use of public resources in support of any political campaign or candidate, including office stationery, telephones, computers, or vehicles. Taxpayers' monies must be used exclusively for public purposes.
- No public official or employee may coerce anyone to support any candidate or to contribute to a political campaign.

- No one may solicit or accept a political contribution in a government building, unless that building has been rented for the purpose of holding a campaign fund raiser.
- Violations of these provisions may result in criminal charges, civil ethics or election violations, and/or administrative actions.

The prohibition against on-duty political activity does not prohibit casual political discussions in the workplace. Voluntary non-coercive speech of a political nature, like other non-work-related discussions on matters of public interest, is protected by the First Amendment provided that it does not interfere with the proper functioning of the workplace and the efficient provision of public services.

Any public employee having knowledge of any violations of these prohibitions, or of any other illegal or improper activities in connection with the elections, should report these matters at once.

Agencies having jurisdiction over election complaints include the following:

Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust

305-579-2594 (office)

786-314-9560 (hotline)

Email: ethics@miamidade.gov

Website: ethics.miamidade.gov

Florida Elections Commission

850-922-4539 (office)

To file a complaint, visit their Website: fec.state.fl.us

Miami-Dade Office of the State Attorney

Public Corruption Unit

305-547-0664 (office)

305-547-3300 (hotline)

Website: miamisao.com

Miami-Dade Police Department

Public Corruption Investigations Bureau

305-599-3121 (office)

Email: pcsinfo@mdpd.com

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Miami Regional Operations Center

(786) 336-1000 (office)