

Ethics (COE)

From: Ethics (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2006 3:53 PM
To: 'John Sheridan'
Subject: RE: County employees on the staff of elected officials.

Mr. Sheridan,

Staffers can work on campaigns when they are off-duty. Alternatively, if they wish to take leave from the County to work on the re-election campaign of their commissioners, they may do so. They are not permitted to use County resources in furtherance of these activities and they are not permitted to fundraise or engage in other campaign-related activities in a County building or in the offices of their commissioners.

They have a First Amendment right to contribute to their boss's campaign, but they can't be coerced into making a contribution or working for the elected official when the employee is off-duty. Administrative Order 7-2 – Political Participation – covers some of your questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
 Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: John Sheridan [mailto:silverfoxjs@prodigy.net]
Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2006 11:13 PM
To: Ethics (COE)
Subject: Fwd: County employees on the staff of elected officials.

Ethics Commission:

I would appreciate an answer to this question.

Basically, can commissioners running for re-election use their county employee staff to perform campaign staff functions/duties?

John Sheridan
 Kendall

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Sheridan <silverfoxjs@prodigy.net>
Date: August 5, 2006 2:43:46 PM EDT
To: ethics@miamidade.gov
Subject: County employees on the staff of elected officials.

Ethics Commission:

What restrictions, if any, are there on county employees on the staffs of county elected officials performing re-election campaign activities for their elected boss? Specifically, I am referring to County Commissioners up for re-election on September 5th, but it could also include the County Mayor when he is eligible for re-election.

I know it is difficult to separate regular commissioner activities during a campaign as to whether it is

8/9/2006

routine staff work or campaign related. But, for example, are staff personnel allowed to make campaign telephone calls to eligible voters, personally canvass voters in support of their boss, pass out fliers, solicit funds or deliver signs to voters for placement in their yards on county payroll time?

Are they allowed to contribute to their boss's campaign?

Where is the line drawn in this matter?

Is this specified somewhere in the County Code?

John Sheridan
Kendall