

**POLITICAL CAMPAIGN EVENTS
ON PROPERTY UNDER THE CONTROL
OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI**

*University Rule 33.01.01.C1—Approved September 13, 2004
Supplements System Regulation 33.01.01*

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As a state institution of higher education, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is required to remain neutral in partisan political activities. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will adhere to all requirements contained within System Regulation 33.01.01, Political Campaign Events on Property Under the Control of The Texas A&M University System (see <http://sago.tamu.edu/policy/33-01-01.htm>). 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 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi campus are subject to reasonable time, place and safety restrictions.
- 1.2 As stated in System Policy 33.01, Privileges as a Citizen, University employees are prohibited from using their official position in connection with membership or participation in any nonprofessional association or organization. University employees are free to express their opinions on any matter, so long as such opinions are not offered as opinions of the University or The Texas A&M University System. University employees will conform in every respect to laws and policies governing their employment.

2. ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS

It is critical for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi to remain neutral in regard to 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. Further, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi expects all faculty, staff and students to avoid any behavior that might reasonably be construed as an official University endorsement or support of political candidates or partisan political activities.

3. DISCRIMINATION BASED ON POLITICAL VIEWPOINT

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi 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 TAMUS Ethics Policy (System Policy 07.01), no Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi 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 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi 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 University Rule 33.04.99.C1, Use of University Facilities (see http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/employment/499C1.htm). Requests that can be reasonably and safely accommodated without detracting from the purpose and operations of the University will be considered.
- 4.3 Should Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi 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-Corpus Christi is required to remain neutral in partisan political activities. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi 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 TAMU-CC Rule 33.01.01.C1."

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

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

- In sponsoring a partisan political activity on campus, the recognized student organization must notify the President's Office, Community Outreach and Public Affairs before the event occurs.
- Groups officially recognized in the University Councils and Committees document that meet on campus and wish to sponsor a political speaker or event must notify the President's Office, Community Outreach and Public Affairs before the event occurs. Events may need to be coordinated through the Office of Community Outreach.

- 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 Public Affairs prior to the speaker's visit.
- Adherence to University Rule 11.99.99.C3, Guest Speakers, Lecturers and Entertainers, is expected.
- The organization, group or individual sponsoring an off-campus speaker has the responsibility of making clear 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 System or of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.
- Officially chartered and currently registered student organizations may post advertisements for their on-campus political events only on the "open board" posting centers on campus, with the approval of the Office of Student Activities. The name of the organization and the dates of their events must be clearly printed on all materials.

6. AT LARGE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ADVERTISING AND ELECTIONEERING

Campaign workers and volunteers may not place materials related to off-campus political campaigns in or on the grounds of the University or on utility poles or on the windshields of automobiles parked on campus. This restriction also applies when the University is an official voting site during political campaigns. This provision is not intended to prohibit students, employees, or visitors from displaying political bumper stickers or other materials on their own vehicles. A recognized student organization may distribute information regarding political candidates or issues as part of their organization's mission after notifying the Office of Student Activities, the President's Office and Public Affairs.

7. VISITS BY CURRENT POLITICAL OFFICEHOLDERS

When a holder of a political office visits Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, the officeholder shall 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 should 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.

8. USE OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI SYMBOLS, INSIGNIA, AND OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS

The use of any Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi symbol, insignia, or other identifiable mark in association with any partisan political activity, including campaigns by political candidates, is prohibited. (See System Policy 09.02.)

9. DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi 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.

Contact for Interpretation: Vice President for Institutional Advancement