GENERAL DOS & DON’TS

Political Activities

Examples of the kinds of activities in which faculty, staff, and students **may engage personally as individuals on their own time**, provided they do not use university resources and do not say or imply they are acting on behalf of FIU:

- Donating money off of the university campus to support or oppose a political candidate or ballot initiative.
- Acting as a volunteer by writing letters, making phone calls, knocking on doors, or distributing flyers in support of or opposition to a political candidate or ballot initiative.
- Organizing or attending rallies in support of or opposition to a political candidate or ballot initiative.
- Writing letters to the editor or op-ed pieces supporting or opposing a political candidate or ballot initiative.
- Giving speeches and participating in debates for or against a political candidate or ballot initiative.
- Writing to elected officials to express personal opinions on a political candidate or ballot initiative.
- Renting FIU facilities for campaign-related events, on the same terms available to any member of the public under applicable use policies for that facility, **provided that campaign fundraising may not occur**.

Examples of activities in which faculty, staff, and students **may generally properly engage** under the law, **even if public resources are used**:

- Disseminating factual material on the proposed FIU expansion (not the ballot initiative) to news organizations, other media and the general public.
- Conducting scholarly research on the effects of a ballot initiative or political issue on FIU, the state, the economy, etc.
- Disseminating the results of scholarly research on a ballot initiative or political issue in academic journals.
- Renting FIU facilities to outside parties or university organizations for campaign-related events, pursuant to applicable use policies and subject to the usual and normal charge for that facility, **provided that campaign fundraising may not occur**.
• Planning and holding academic conferences, forums, symposiums or panel discussions on campus, or inviting guest speakers (including, in some circumstances, candidates) to campus, to discuss campaign-related issues (must not be for the purpose of influencing a vote in an election).

Faculty, staff, and students cannot, however, use public resources to engage in political activities for or against a candidate or ballot initiative. Here are some examples of political activities that use public resources and thus are generally not permitted under Florida law:

• Soliciting or accepting political contributions in an FIU facility.

• Sending out a campaign mailing using university stationery or postage purchased by the university.

• Using an official FIU e-mail list or listserv to campaign for or against a political candidate or ballot initiative.

• Using FIU equipment to copy material supporting or opposing a political candidate or ballot initiative.

• Using FIU’s email system for the purpose of supporting or opposing a political candidate or ballot initiative, subject to FIU’s de minimis personal use exception.

• Conducting a political campaign or campaigning in favor of a ballot referendum from a FIU office or other FIU facility, or otherwise using FIU resources, such as a FIU-provided telephone, computer, e-mail address, social media account, etc., to conduct such a campaign.

• Campaigning in the name of FIU or purporting to speak on behalf of FIU when supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot initiative, whether in speech, writings, or social media postings.