

Quick Reference Guide: University Policies and Guidance on Political Activity

Princeton University encourages members of the University community to pursue their varied talents and interests. Further, the University considers self-chosen participation in political and social action by individuals and groups to be a valuable part of the educational experience it seeks to advance. Princeton's [Statement on Freedom of Expression](#) explains its commitment to free speech and protections for campus community members engaging in academic inquiry, peaceful protest, ordinary conversation, and online discussion. However, as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt institution, the University, including its respective offices and academic departments, is prohibited from endorsing, or providing or soliciting financial or other support for, candidates for public office or partisan political organizations. These prohibitions apply as well to campus-based organizations.

This Quick Reference Guide is intended to help inform the University community, including faculty, staff and students, about policies and guidance relating to permissible University-based political activity.

Policies

- [Guidelines Relating to the Tax-Exempt Status of the University and Political Activities](#), Rights, Rules, Responsibilities 1.5
- [Statement on Freedom of Expression](#), Rights, Rules, Responsibilities 1.1.3
- [Peaceful Dissent, Protests, and Demonstrations](#), Rights, Rules, Responsibilities 1.2.3
- [Regulations Governing Solicitation, Distribution, and Peaceful Dissent, Protests, and Demonstrations by Off-Campus Individuals or Organizations](#), Rights, Rules, Responsibilities 3.2
- [Acceptable Use Policy for Princeton University Information Technology and Digital Resources](#)
- [University Sponsorship and/or Endorsement of Speakers and Programs](#)
- [Solicitation & Distribution](#), HR Policy & Procedures Manual 5.3.8

Guidance

- Candidate Appearances at University Events
 - [OGC FAQs](#)
 - [OGC Practical Guidance](#)
- Political and Public Advocacy Activities
 - [OGC Guidance for Faculty and Staff on Political and Public Advocacy Activities](#)

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- [OGC Political and Public Advocacy Examples](#)
- [OIT's Guidelines for Compliance with the Acceptable Use Policy](#)
- [Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity's Freedom of Expression Website](#)
- [ODUS's Protests and Free Expression Website](#)

Note: *This Quick Reference Guide, including the referenced policies and guidance, is for your general information and education only and does not constitute legal advice. Please feel free to contact the Office of the General Counsel with specific legal questions regarding permissible University-based political activity.*