

## **ORGANIZATION, PHILOSOPHY, AND GOALS**

### **School Board Bylaws**

#### **Guidelines for Conduct of School Board and Other Election Campaigns**

This policy supersedes Policy 1800.3.

#### **I. PURPOSE**

To provide guidelines for the conduct of School Board and other election campaigns.

#### **II. SUMMARY OF CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION**

- A. In section III., language was updated to include that information is available to candidates and citizens on the FCPS web site.
- B. In section VIII.A., reference to Policy 1806 was removed and reference to the School Board's Strategic Governance Manual was inserted.

#### **III. ACCESS TO SCHOOL SYSTEM INFORMATION**

Any candidate or citizen may have access to school system records pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and the current versions of Policy 1501 and Regulation 1501, Public Access to Information. Information about FCPS programs and operations is available at: <http://www.fcps.edu/index.shtml>.

#### **IV. DISPLAY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POLITICAL LITERATURE**

Each principal or building manager shall designate a time, place, and manner for distribution or display of political literature pursuant to the current version of Regulation 3280, Controversial Issues.

#### **V. EMPLOYEE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES**

- A. All employees are encouraged to exercise their constitutional rights as citizens, but they shall not involve their schools or workplaces in political campaigns and shall not participate in campaign activities during hours of official employment. Campaign materials may not be distributed by school system employees to any students during school hours except as may be used to further student understanding of Program of Studies objectives.
- B. No employee shall be expected or required to participate in any campaign or to support any candidate as a condition of employment.
- C. Campaign literature shall not be distributed or displayed by teachers or other employees in schools or workplaces, except as permitted under the current version

of Regulation 3280, Controversial Issues, section IV.A. of this policy, or if teachers or other employees are participating in a function covered under section V. of this policy.

**VI. USE OF FACILITIES**

When space is available, candidates may use school buildings and grounds during non-school hours for campaign activities under the category of "cultural and civic groups" pursuant to the current version of Regulation 8420, Community Use of School Facilities. School buildings and grounds may not be used for campaign activities during school hours.

**VII. SCHOOL BOARD'S CABLE CHANNEL 21**

- A. Any School Board member who is a declared candidate, or any other candidate, for any public office shall not host or participate in any program on the School Board's cable Channel 21 from January 1 to election day in an election year in which the member is a candidate (with the exception of cablecasts of School Board meetings and other televised public school meetings).
- B. Channel 21 shall not be used for campaign advertising or fund solicitation by any person.
- C. Channel 21 programming shall be nonpolitical and nonpartisan at all times.

**VIII. CONDUCT OF CANDIDATES**

- A. The State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act, the current versions of Policy 1801, Conflict of Interest and Statement of Economic Interest—School Board Members and Superintendent of Schools, and the School Board's Strategic Governance Manual, are applicable to School Board members. The current version of Policy 4430, Conflict of Interest—Employees, applies to employees.
- B. Candidates for election to the School Board shall not use Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) resources, FCPS facilities, FCPS personnel (except insofar as employees may voluntarily participate during nonduty hours), FCPS events at which they are official participants, FCPS stationery, or the FCPS or School Board logo in support of their campaigns.

See also the current versions of: Policy 1501, Public Access to Information  
Regulation 1501, Public Access to Information  
Regulation 3280, Controversial Issues  
Regulation 8420, Community Use of School Facilities

Policy 1801, Conflict of Interest and Statement of Economic  
Interest—School Board Members and Superintendent of  
Schools

Policy 4430, Conflict of Interest—Employees  
Strategic Governance Manual

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