
Office of Compliance, Risk, and Ethics

To: Montgomery College Community

From: Emmilee Racek, Interim Chief Compliance, Risk, and Ethics Officer

Subject: **Election Season Reminder—Guidelines for Political Activities**

Date: October 4, 2022

This is National Voter Registration Week, and all members of the Montgomery College community are encouraged to register and exercise their right to vote in the upcoming elections. The MC Library and the League of Women Voters are co-sponsoring a virtual event today where you can learn more about voter registration, ballot information, and important deadlines. (Advance [sign-up](#) for the event is required.)

It is also important to remind ourselves of our rights and responsibilities during this election season. Each individual employee and student enjoy freedom of speech and has a right to expression with regard to candidates and issues. We are fortunate to live in a country where these rights are cherished and protected. However, as a tax-exempt, public institution of higher education, the College itself is prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in any political campaign on behalf of or against any political party or candidate for public office. Therefore, individual members of the College community also have a responsibility not to imply that the College supports or opposes any party or candidate. In addition, public resources (employee time, computers, printed material, webpages, and rooms, among other resources) cannot be used by an individual to advance a candidate or issue with the College's explicit or implied support. College-sponsored events—including virtual ones—should generally be structured so that all candidates or representatives on all sides have an opportunity to be heard. Please note that our student organizations are not bound by the same obligations and can organize information events according to their interests.

Employees are encouraged to review the College's [Political Activity Policy \(31004\)](#). In addition, the American Council on Education has published an issue brief, "[Election Year and College Political Campaign-Related Activities](#)," regarding student voting and political activity, which offers illustrative examples of permissive and prohibited political activities on campus.

Your attention to these matters is appreciated. For questions about voter education and engagement, please contact MCVotes@montgomerycollege.edu. Questions regarding political activities may be directed to the Office of General Counsel at Tim.Dietz@montgomerycollege.edu or 240-567-5270 or the Office of Government Relations at Susan.Madden@montgomerycollege.edu or 240-567-5274.

I thank you for your civic engagement and your help in maintaining our institutional role as a steward of public resources that provides a fair environment for discussion, discourse, and debate.