

Political Campaigning and Advocacy Activities on Campus

Policies and procedures affecting political campaigning or other forms of advocacy on campus are based on the following assumptions:

1. That the campus of an institution of higher education should be a free and open forum for the expression of ideas and opinions concerning any and all aspects of human thought, and whether or not such ideas and opinions are matters of controversy;
2. That discussion and debate should be conducted courteously, in good taste, and with scrupulous regard for the right of all parties to be heard;
3. That controversial subjects may, and should, be discussed in classes, as appropriate to the subject of that course, but that in all events, the academic objectivity of scholarship and teaching must be preserved;
4. That active participation of students in the political process is encouraged, consistent with the purpose of the University to develop informed and active citizens; and
5. That the political, religious, and ideological neutrality of the University, as a public institution of higher education, be scrupulously preserved.

Accordingly, the following rules and guidelines will be observed:

1. Recognized student organizations may reserve University facilities to host, sponsor and/or publicize an event on behalf of a candidate. The use of Mayville State University facilities for this event does not constitute an endorsement by the University. The views of those invited to speak on campus are the views of the speaker and not of Mayville State University. Mayville State University does not endorse or oppose any candidate or organization in connection with this or any other political campaign or election.
2. At the beginning of an event the sponsoring student organization should deliver the following disclaimer: "This event is sponsored by {entity}."
3. Political posters or other advocacy materials may be placed only on University bulletin boards in accordance with MP991 Posting of Materials procedure. The name of the sponsoring student organization must be clearly stated on all material advertising the event.
4. Literature may be distributed on the campus, only in public areas. Persons distributing literature shall take reasonable care to ensure that campus litter resulting from such distribution is minimized.
5. The use of University email accounts to send mass emails in support or opposition of a candidate or political issue is not permitted. Please refer to M1901.2.1 Mass Email Distribution policy.
6. Posters or literature shall not be placed on trees or poles or fastened to stakes on campus lawns.
7. Individual residence hall councils may make reasonable rules concerning the time, place, and manner in which political campaigning and advocacy activities shall take place in the particular residence halls, within the general provisions of these rules and guidelines.
8. Political campaigning or advocacy materials shall not be distributed through institutional social media accounts unless they are the announcement of an activity or event sponsored by a recognized campus organization, or unless they are sent through the U.S. Mail with proper postage attached. Please refer to M1901.6 Social Media policy.

9. In no case will advocacy materials be permitted on the campus, which contain vulgarity, unwarranted or unreasonable attacks upon the character of individuals, or contain statements, which violate the public law.
10. Literature may be distributed outside the gates at any athletic contest or other public event. They shall not be distributed inside the admission gates. Persons distributing literature may take shelter in entryways during inclement weather.

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Sponsor: President's Cabinet