

Political Activity on Campus

As a tax-exempt entity, IIT is legally prohibited from directly or indirectly participating or intervening in any campaign of behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for elective office and has an affirmative obligation to refrain from engaging in any partisan political activity. Violation of these prohibitions against such activities could jeopardize the university's tax-exempt status.

While individuals are free to express their opinions and to support political candidates on their own, it must be clear that the individual is acting on his or her own behalf and not on behalf of IIT. To this end, an individual should not identify himself or herself as an employee of IIT, and if he or she is identified as such, he or she should, prior to any speech or as part of any writing, indicate that his or her comments are personal and not intended to represent the views of IIT. Further, no individual or event may use the name, symbols or resources of the university to participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for political office.

Specific examples of impermissible activities include, but are not limited to (i) using university letterhead, campus mail, telephones or IIT email accounts to solicit support or contributions for a candidate; (ii) using university funds to purchase tickets for a candidate's fund-raiser; and (iii) putting campaign posters on university property.

Political candidates may use or rent IIT facilities only if all candidates are allowed the opportunity to use or rent such facilities on equal terms and conditions.

Subject to certain conditions and restrictions, political candidates may be invited to speak at events without jeopardizing IIT's tax exempt status; however, no such invitation should be extended without the extending party first discussing the invitation with the General Counsel's Office, so as to ensure that the invitation complies with applicable laws.

Certain voter education activities, including voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, are permissible but only if they are undertaken in accordance with applicable rules and regulations and are conducted in a non-partisan manner. Again, before any such activities are undertaken, the initiating party should contact the General Counsel's Office.