



**November Election
Talking Points
Parent Superintendent Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 2008**

Background:

This fall will no doubt be an exciting and challenging time as various national, state, and local elections take place this November. It is an important time for our nation and for our students to learn first hand about the issues and the political process, and for all voters to express their will.

A.R.S. 15-511

15-511. Use of school district or charter school resources or employees to influence elections

A. A person acting on behalf of a school district or a person who aids another person acting on behalf of a school district shall not use school district or charter school personnel, equipment, materials, buildings or other resources for the purpose of influencing the outcomes of elections. Notwithstanding this section, a school district may distribute informational reports on a proposed budget override election as provided in section 15-481, subsections B and C or informational reports on a proposed bond election as provided in section 15-491, subsection D. Nothing in this section precludes a school district from reporting on official actions of the governing board...

Kyrene School District Policy-GBI Staff Participation in Political Activities:

The Board recognizes the right of its employees, as citizens, to engage in political activity. However, school time, personnel, equipment, supplies, materials, buildings, or other resources may not be used to influence the outcomes of elections.

Summary Points:

- Employees can also engage in political activities, including campaigning during off hours, as a private citizen (during non duty time outside of the classroom). Employees must not represent that they are acting on behalf of the school district while engaged in activities to influence the outcomes of an election.
- Employees may have bumper stickers, etc. on their private vehicles while the vehicle is parked in a parking lot owned by the district.

- Employees cannot advocate a position during work hours, which would include wearing political buttons, T-shirts, caps, etc., or posting political posters or distributing flyers on district property, nor may they use district resources (time, energy, materials, etc.) to support political activities.
- Students may not be involved in writing, addressing, or distribution of materials to influence the outcome of an election, during school time, or to advocate support or opposition to pending or proposed legislation.
- The discussion and study of politics and political issues, when such discussion and study are appropriate to classroom studies, are not precluded under the provisions of the KSD policy.

PTO Tips Regarding Political Activity:

- PTO's are a vital organization for sharing information of local concern in the community. Like with the Kyrene School District, factual information can always be shared as long as all sides of the issue are presented. Advocacy should not occur at an informational forum.
- PTO's may also choose to participate in political activities. However, it is important to know that when a PTO engages in such activities, their use of facility category changes from Category IB to Category III and appropriate use of facility fees apply. If your PTO is planning on engaging in political activities, please notify Rasheda Smith at 480-783-4174, in Community Education for assistance in following the proper use process.
- As a private citizen, PTO members can take a political position on any issue affecting Kyrene.

Resources

We encourage staff and the community to become informed on local issues. Resources include, but are not limited to:

Arizona Department of Education- School District Redistricting Commission- www.ade.az.gov/sdrc

www.kyrene.org/redistricting -Kyrene Governing Board's Position on Redistricting

www.tuhsd.k12.az.us -Tempe Union High School District's Governing Board's position

www.tempe3.k12.az.us -Tempe Elementary School District's Governing Board's position

Voter Pamphlet Pro and Con Statements

Kyrene Communicates- Fall 2008- List of Kyrene Governing Board Candidates

Political Forum sponsored by Kyrene Parent Network, to be held on Thursday, October 16, 2008, at Corona del Sol High School Cafeteria from 6:30-8:30 pm.



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