Bowdoin College Policy Regarding Political Activity  
2017

Bowdoin is a tax-exempt organization; therefore, the College is prohibited from engaging in certain types of political activity. The College may not “participate” or “intervene” in a campaign of any candidate for public office; endorse a candidate for public office; sponsor events to advance the candidacy of a particular candidate; invite employees to candidate events; publish ratings of candidates; or comment on actions, statements, or positions taken by candidates. The College may host forums to which all legally qualified candidates are invited. Please see the resources below for additional information on prohibited college activities versus permitted college activities.

In contrast to the College itself, college employees are entitled to participate freely, off-hours, in the election process. Employees may not use College resources, including e-mail, computers, telephones, or fax or photocopying equipment, to work for or endorse a candidate, political party, or political action committee.

Please note that this policy does not apply to student groups, such as the College Democrats and Republicans, who may use institutional facilities for partisan political purposes.

The IRS has released guidance to tax exempt organizations regarding the facts and circumstances it considers when deciding whether a charitable organization has engaged in prohibited political activity in Revenue Ruling 2007-41. The American Council on Education has provided additional guidance.

Please contact Megan Hart at 725-3092 or mhart@bowdoin.edu with any questions.