

### **Political Activity**

The Commonwealth's campaign finance laws (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 55) place significant restrictions on political activity by school personnel and on school grounds. The School Committees require strict compliance with each of these restrictions:

#### **Use of Public Resources:**

Even the occasional or minor use of any public resources for political purposes is prohibited. "Public resources" include, among other things, staff time, office space, the interoffice mail system, stationery and office supplies, office equipment such as telephones, copiers, fax machines, computers and word processors, buses and automobiles, and even the use of the town or regional insignia. "Political purposes" include promoting or opposing a candidate for public office, promoting or opposing a ballot question, or promoting or opposing a political party.

#### **Solicitation by School Employees of Political Contributions:**

School employees are prohibited from directly or indirectly soliciting or receiving any contribution or anything of value (including the use of the employee's name on a fundraising letter) for any political purpose. This restriction applies both on and off school property, and during both working and non-working hours. This restriction does not prevent a school employee from making a personal contribution to a political campaign committee or from serving as a member (other than the treasurer) of a political committee, or from running for political office (though school employees who are members of campaign committees or candidates for public office cannot accept contributions personally and public employee candidates are subject to other fund raising restrictions).

#### **Solicitation of Political Contributions in School Buildings:**

No one may solicit contributions for political purposes in any school building or on the property immediately surrounding any school building.

#### **Political Contributions May Not Be Required:**

School employees cannot be compelled to make contributions or render political services as a condition of their school employment and cannot be penalized in any way for refusing to do so.

APPROVED: December 11, 2006

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LEGAL REF: [M.G.L. 55](#)