

# Frequently Asked Questions for Political Activities on the University of Vermont Campus

The following frequently asked questions (FAQs) have been prepared by the Office of University Relations to assist in interpreting the University's policy on [Political Activities: Tax Exempt Organization Restrictions](#).

Questions about the policy should be directed to Wendy Koenig in the Office of University Relations (e-mail: ([Wendy.Koenig@uvm.edu](mailto:Wendy.Koenig@uvm.edu)), phone: 656-2992).

Q1. Are door -to-door canvassing activities in residence halls, administrative offices, or other private work or living areas permitted by political candidates, political organizations, or other interested parties (including those that are members of the campus community)?

A. The University does not permit any candidate, campaign, or other interested party, regardless of their University affiliation status, to engage in solicitation, campaigning, or other door-to-door canvassing activities in staff or faculty offices, student residence halls, or other private work or living areas. Incidents should be reported to Residential Life staff and/or UVM Police Services. Canvassing activities are necessarily limited to publicly accessible areas consistent with the University's [Solicitation Policy](#).

Q2. What political activities are permitted by University Recognizables:

- Display and distribution of candidate literature, signs, bumper stickers, and other campaign materials at the table.
- Voter registration activities, so long as no individual is denied the ability to register based on their party affiliation or candidate preferences.
- Opportunities to contact public officials' or candidates' offices to express views on public

reserving tables and other campus spaces on their own behalf in accordance with the University's Facilities and Grounds Use Policy.

- No political fundraising may be conducted at reserved tables.
- Use of a microphone, bull-horn, or other amplification device is strictly prohibited.

To reserve a table, a request must be made to the Director of University Event Services at [www.uvm.edu/eventservices](http://www.uvm.edu/eventservices) or by calling (802) 656-5665. All activities conducted at a reserved table are subject to restrictions designed to protect public safety and maintain University operations in accordance with the University's Facilities and Grounds Use Policy.

Q3. What political activities are permitted by individuals or groups without University recognition (including candidates, non-recognized student organizations, individual students, faculty, staff, or community members, collectively "Outside Groups") at reserved tables on campus?

A. Examples of permitted campaign activities by Outside Groups at reserved tables:

- Candidate appearances at the reserved table, provided appropriate disclaimers are displayed.
- Display and distribution of candidate literature, signs, and other campaign materials at the table.
- Voter registration activities, so long as no individual is denied the ability to register based on their party affiliation or candidate preferences.
- Opportunities to contact public officials' or candidates' offices to express views on public issues as long as University owned computers or telephones are not used.
- Opportunities to sign letters-to-the-editor supporting individual political candidates or organizations.

While the University encourages and prefers that voter registration activities be conducted in a non-partisan and inclusive manner, there are times and places on campus where recognized student organizations may choose to endorse political candidates. Those organizations may conduct voter registration in connection with partisan campaign activities, provided it is made clear that these activities are not sponsored by and do not constitute an endorsement of the University. For example, reserved tables and public spaces may be used to distribute campaign literature in support of a particular candidate, party, or viewpoint, in conjunction with the conduct of voter registration.

Q5. May political candidates, political organizations, or other interested parties, including those that are members of the campus community, use outdoor, public venues on the UVM campus for political campaign activities?

A5. The University allows certain outdoor public venues to be used, without prior reservation or approval, for political organizing, canvassing, or campaigning, provided the space has not already been reserved, as detailed in the University's [Facilities and Grounds Use Policy](#). To reserve any of these spaces for exclusive use, a request must be made to the Director of University Event Services at [www.uvm.edu/eventservices](http://www.uvm.edu/eventservices) or by calling (802) 656-5665. All activities in these outdoor public

[Campus Mail and Letterboxes Policy](#). All campus mail must comply with requirements for size, weight, address placement, etc. established by the Print and Mail Center. University units and recognized organizations may send notices of authorized campus political events through campus mail. University recognized student organizations may send other political material they have created through campus mail if it is accompanied by a disclaimer that the communication does not represent an endorsement by the University (Sample disclaimer: "The University of Vermont does not endorse any political candidate or political organization, and the views expressed in this communication do not constitute an endorsement by the University."). Recognized student organizations may not use campus mail when the message or mailing is controlled by a political candidate or campaign. Individual employees or students must use the United States Postal Service for all other mail.

University E-mail account to receive and send information on political candidates or organizations.

Q. When may students, faculty or staff endorse a political candidate or political organization?

A. University officials, administrators, employees, or agents, may not endorse political candidates or political organizations when acting in their official capacity. Expressions of individual personal endorsement and support are permitted, but individuals should take steps to ensure there is no confusion about the circumstances of their endorsement. Students and non-governance student organizations may endorse political candidates or organizations under certain circumstances.

Examples of prohibited endorsement activities:

- University officials, administrators, employees or agents may not be identified by ti( or)u or

Q. How can political candidates and political organizations recruit students to work on