



UNIVERSITY POLICY

Political Campaign Events and Partisan Political Activities at Savannah State University

Rule Statement

Savannah State University is a state supported public institution of higher education. The responsibility for educating and training the future leaders of the state and nation carries with it a duty to adhere to the highest ethical standards and principles. In fulfilling its multiple missions as an institution of higher education, Savannah State University encourages the free exchange of ideas. The University will protect the freedoms of speech, expression, petition, and peaceful assembly, while maintaining its right to impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions concerning acts of expression and dissent.

Official Rule/ Responsibilities/ Process

1. INSTITUTIONAL NEUTRALITY

In order to maintain its integrity as a public institution, it is critical that Savannah State maintain neutrality in regard to any partisan political activity. Savannah State University cannot endorse, support or promote any political candidate (either incumbents or new office seekers, members of their staffs, or their campaign representatives) or any partisan political activity. Further, it is the intent and expectation of Savannah State University that all faculty, staff, and students avoid any behavior that could reasonably be interpreted as official University endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities. Nothing in these rules should be construed to limit the right or ability of any member of the University community to express personal opinions or to exercise his or her right to engage in political activities outside his or her official capacity or affiliation with the University.

2. USE OF UNIVERSITY FUNDS, SERVICES OR FACILITIES

No Savannah State University employee shall expend or authorize the expenditure of any University funds, services, or supplies for the purpose of influencing the outcome of any election, or partisan political activity.

Political candidates (either incumbents or new office seekers, members of their staffs, or their campaign representatives) are not permitted to reserve University facilities for political campaign events. An area on campus may be reserved in accordance with the University Rules on Freedom of Expression

3. USE OF SYMBOLS, INSIGNIA, OR MARKS

Savannah State University prohibits the use of any of its symbols, insignias, or other identifying marks in association with any activity that involves the endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities. For purposes of this rule, the prohibition includes, but is not necessarily limited to, all registered marks and all official insignia, uniforms, landmarks, or licensed songs that may be reasonably identified with Savannah State University. This prohibition also includes any University affiliated organizations that officially represent the institution, such as the band and athletic teams. University affiliated organizations will be determined by the Vice President for Student Affairs.

4. RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATION SPONSORSHIP OF CAMPAIGN EVENTS

In the spirit of maintaining a “marketplace of ideas,” officially recognized student organizations may sponsor partisan political activities or events on campus in accordance with all applicable University rules as set forth in the Savannah State University Student Handbook. In sponsoring a partisan political activity on campus, a recognized student organization or group of organizations must be responsible for communicating and collaborating with appropriate university officials about the event and cannot delegate any responsibility for the event to non-student organizations unless mutually agreed upon by appropriate university officials, the sponsoring organization, and the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

5. DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Savannah State University reserves the right to require that a statement be made prior to the presentation of any speaker that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the institution or the sponsoring group.

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