

# Political Activity and Student Organizations at Roosevelt University

## Policy Statement

As an institution of higher learning, Roosevelt University is committed to the free expression of political views by members of the Roosevelt community and to the value of discourse and debate as an essential underpinning of a liberal arts education. Roosevelt encourages students to engage in the political and electoral process, including the organizing of educational events on campus which provide an opportunity for students and others to learn about important public policy issues and to hear from officeholders or candidates.

## Reason for Policy

Roosevelt University, as an educational organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, may not participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. It is imperative that members of the Roosevelt community or the University itself do not engage in activities that would call into question the University's tax-exempt status.

## Entities Affected by this Policy

This policy applies to Roosevelt University student organizations that would like to host, invite or co-sponsor incumbents or candidates for political offices, or their representatives or delegates, to speak on campus.

## Implementation

### Campus Events

Student organizations recognized by the University may host events promoting a candidate, as long as such an event is not funded by the Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee or any University funds. Roosevelt University is a 501(c)(3) organization and may not sponsor partisan political events or provide support to particular candidates running for office.

- Fundraising at such events is prohibited.
- Posters, social media, emails, and websites advertising any such event should include the following disclaimer: "The opinions expressed will be neither the opinions of Roosevelt University or its Trustees nor sanctioned by Roosevelt University."
- The leadership of the sponsoring organization of such an event will also issue that disclaimer in the beginning of the event. In addition, the Roosevelt University logo (or any university office logo) may not be used in any promotional materials, electronic advertising, and/or social media advertising the event.

- The date, length, and format of the program and all other aspects of the program should be determined solely by the student organizations, with no involvement by Roosevelt University (except that any University rules generally applicable to all events sponsored by student groups would apply).
- In addition, facilities must be available to groups such as college republicans, the college democrats, and any similar group (e.g., the college green party or a group formed to support an independent candidate) on an equal basis. Student organizations may not be denied a room based on their political affiliation.

### Candidate Visits to Campus

Please see Roosevelt University Policy number 8.4: Political Candidates Speaking on Campus for the policy regarding candidate visits. <http://www.roosevelt.edu/Policies>

### Voter Education, Registration and Get out the Vote Drives

Per the Internal Revenue Code, section 501(c)(3) Roosevelt University student organizations are permitted to conduct certain voter education activities (including the presentation of public forums and the publication of voter education guides) if they are carried out in a non-partisan manner. In addition, student organizations may encourage people to participate in the electoral process through voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, conducted in a non-partisan manner. On the other hand, voter education or registration activities conducted in a biased manner that favors (or opposes) one or more candidates is prohibited.

### **Student Organizations May Not:**

- Hold fundraisers for political candidates on University property (Auditorium Building, Wabash Building, Gage, The Goodman Center, University Center, and Schaumburg buildings)
- University property may not be used for distribution of information about political activities and campaigns.
- Cause the University to make, or to appear to make, an endorsement of, contribution to, or expenditure for a political candidate or party.
- Use University photocopiers or fax machines for the reproduction of campaign literature.
- Use University office addresses and e-mail addresses as a return mailing address for partisan political mailings.
- Use University-owned telephones for phone-banking on behalf of a candidate or for other similarly significant partisan political uses. (However, campus residential telephone services—e.g. in student residence hall rooms, or in

University-owned faculty/staff rental apartments—may be used for these purposes.)

- Use University resources or services, such as interdepartmental mail, e-mail, mailing lists, equipment such as duplicating machines, computers, and facsimile machines, or supplies for partisan political purposes.
- Use the Roosevelt University letterhead, logo, or seal on materials intended for partisan political purposes.