

**From:** [Compliance Office](#)  
**To:** [Compliance Office](#)  
**Bcc:** ["allemployeegrp@montgomerycollege.edu"](mailto:allemployeegrp@montgomerycollege.edu)  
**Subject:** Election Season Reminder—Guidelines for Political Campaign Activities  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 2, 2024 11:40:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [Election Activities at Montgomery College - April 2024.pdf](#)

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Memorandum

Office of Compliance, Risk, and Ethics

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**To:** Montgomery College Colleagues  
**From:** Susan V. Watson, Chief Compliance, Risk, and Ethics Officer  
**Subject:** **Election Season Reminder—Guidelines for Political Campaign Activities**  
**Date:** April 2, 2024

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Today marks six weeks before Maryland's primary election day and 30 days before the beginning of Maryland's early voting. Wherever you live, all eligible voters in the Montgomery College community are encouraged to register and exercise their right to vote in the upcoming elections. This memo serves to remind us all of our rights and responsibilities during election season.

Each employee and student enjoys freedom of speech and has a right to expression with regard to candidates and issues. We are fortunate to live in a country where these rights are cherished and protected. However, as a tax-exempt, public institution of higher education, the College itself is prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in any political campaign on behalf of or against any political party or candidate for public office. Therefore, individual members of the College community also have a responsibility not to imply that the College supports or opposes any party or candidate.

In addition, public resources – including employee time, computers, printed material, webpages, and rooms, among other resources – cannot be used by an individual to advance a candidate or issue with the College's explicit or implied support. In-person and virtual College-sponsored events generally should be structured so that all candidates or representatives on all sides have an opportunity to be heard. Please note that our student organizations are not bound by the same obligations and can organize information events according to their interests.

Employees are encouraged to review the College's [Political Activity Policy \(31004\)](#). In addition, the American Council on Education published an issue brief, "[Student Voting and College Political Campaign-Related Activities in 2023](#)," regarding student voting and political activity, which offers illustrative examples of permissive and prohibited political campaign activities on campus.

Please contact [MCVotes@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:MCVotes@montgomerycollege.edu) with questions about voter education and engagement. Questions regarding political campaign activities may be directed to the Office of General Counsel at [Tim.Dietz@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Tim.Dietz@montgomerycollege.edu) (240-567-5270) or the Office of Government Relations at [Susan.Madden@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Susan.Madden@montgomerycollege.edu) (240-567-5274).

Your attention to these matters is appreciated. Thank you for your civic engagement and your help in maintaining our institutional role as a steward of public resources that provides a fair environment for discussion, discourse, and debate.