



KDADS employees are encouraged to exercise their constitutional right to vote in elections. Employees however, cannot engage in any political activity while on state time, using state property (including but not limited to, telephones, vehicles, fax machines, copiers, computers, etc.) or from a state office. If an employee desires to engage in any political activity, he/she must comply with all state and federal statutes and regulations concerning such political activity. No officer, agent, clerk, or employee of this state shall directly or indirectly use their authority or official influence to compel any officer or employee to apply for membership in or become a member of any organization, or to pay or promise to pay any assessment, subscription or contribution, or to take part in any political activity. Any officer or employee in the state classified service shall resign from the service prior to taking the oath of office for a state elective office.

Additionally, no officer or employee of the state shall use or authorize the use of public funds or public vehicles, machinery, equipment or supplies of any such governmental agency or the time of any officer or employee which is compensated by such governmental agency, to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate to state office or local office.

The Federal Hatch Act also applies to the political activity of certain state and local government employees. Employees covered under the Hatch Act are persons principally employed by state or local executive agencies in connection with programs financed in whole or in part by federal loans and grants. Those state employees covered by the Hatch Act may not, for example, be candidates for public office in a partisan election, use official authority or influence to interfere with or affect the results of an election or nomination, or, directly or indirectly coerce contributions from subordinates in support of a political party or candidate.

Employees who have specific questions about the Hatch Act can contact the Office of Special Counsel, the Federal agency responsible for investigating violations of the Hatch Act, at 800-85-HATCH (800-854-2824) or by e-mail at www.hatchact@osc.gov.

Additional state and federal statutes and regulations may also apply.

Reference: K.S.A. 75-2953; K.S.A. 25-4169a; K.S.A. 75-2925; K.S.A. 75-2949f; K.S.A. 75-2974; 5 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.; Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission Opinion No. 2010-01, 2006-16, 1999-45, 1998-05, 1994-03.