



Can OCSEA members be involved in political activities?

Yes

As a classified public employee, you are able to engage in some partisan political activities as long as they are **member-to-member**. The Little Hatch Act, which restricts the activity of classified public employees, was passed by Ohio and eight other states to prevent public officials from making promises of employment or promotion due to a person's political party or affiliation.*

However, there are activities that classified public employees can participate in such as talking to a union co-worker about a candidate or an issue. *See below for what you can and can't do.*

What you can (and can't) do under the Little Hatch Act.



- ✓ Engage in member-to-member communication regarding a political candidate.
- ✓ Campaign for an issue by going door-to-door.
- ✓ Urge people to register to vote or to vote early.
- ✓ Wear a button to work (or outside work) supporting an issue or a candidate (check your agency's dress code).
- ✓ Place candidate bumper stickers on your car.
- ✓ Place signs in your yard supporting a candidate.
- ✓ Donate to a legislator or statewide candidate (not your boss) and receive a tax credit of \$50 for individuals or \$100 for joint filers.



- ✓ Participate in "non labor-to-labor" phone banks and door-to-door canvassing.
- ✓ Donate to a candidate's campaign or do fundraising if you work for the candidate (e.g., Attorney General).
- ✓ Do literature drops at the workplace in support of a candidate.
- ✓ Wear a t-shirt to work endorsing a candidate.
- ✓ Circulate a petition to get a candidate on the ballot.

**If the Hatch Act is violated, employees could face discipline up to and including removal.*