

DO's and DON'Ts of PTA DURING ELECTIONS

The election season produces candidates very anxious to meet and get support from voters and all types of community groups, including PTA. A review of PTA allowable activity is timely.

DON'Ts

PTA can NEVER support or oppose a candidate or a political party or body. NEVER lend the PTA unit's name to a political campaign, nor your PTA title. Do NOT write messages of support or opposition on PTA letterhead or use a PTA distribution medium for a candidate, i.e. a directory or e-mail list.

Do NOT solicit or accept donations or sponsorships from a political campaign fund. Such sponsorships or donations are often publicized in PTA newsletters and other media, and when paid with political campaign funds, the appearance is the support by PTA of that candidacy. Candidates may use personal funds to support local PTA units.

Do NOT link in any way the PTA name or logo with a political candidate or party.

DO's

PTA can sponsor voter registration efforts.

PTA can encourage citizens to vote, publicize election dates and polling places.

PTA can produce voter guides and voting records. Include all candidates or voting members.

PTA can support or oppose ballot questions, such as educational special purpose local option sales taxes, SPLOSTs, bond issues for schools, and

tax assessment questions. PTA action in these matters *must be based on a position* adopted through resolution at the national, state, district, council, or local level. Speaking to a ballot issue that may also be a part of a political candidate or party platform *does not* constitute support for that political candidate or party. Instead, it indicates advocacy on a position of record for the organization.

PTA may sponsor political forums or candidate meet-and-greet events. **ALL** candidates for a specific office **MUST** be invited to participate and each candidate given equal time to speak. A candidate invited but not attending will not invalidate the PTA activity.

PTA encourages all members to cast a ballot for candidates of one's choice and to be as active as one desires.

PTA board members should exercise restraint in visible support of candidates, such as yard signs, bumper stickers, campaign pins, adding one's name to a support list for a

candidate, etc. If an observant citizen concludes that a PTA leader's support of a candidate constitutes PTA organizational support, then the PTA leader should refrain from the overt activity.

For additional guidance, contact SCPTA Office at (800) 743-3PTA or email: office@scpta.org