



# THE IG UPDATE



Volume 24-6, AUGUST 2024

## Active Duty Political Activities

As the 2024 presidential elections draw closer, all active duty members of the Armed Forces (including Guard/Reserve on active duty) should review the 'Do's and Don'ts' relating to political and campaign activities, as defined in Department of Defense Directive (DODD) 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces." The list below is not comprehensive; if you have any questions, consult your local Staff Judge Advocate for guidance.

### ACTIVE DUTY SOLDIERS CAN:

- ✓ Register to vote, cast a vote, and encourage others to vote.
- ✓ Express personal opinions on political candidates and issues.
- ✓ Write a letter in a newspaper, blog or social media expressing personal political views. However, if you identify yourself as a service member, you must include a statement that your views do not represent those of the Department of Defense or Department of the Army.
- ✓ Attend partisan or non-partisan political rallies and clubs as a spectator during off-duty hours. However, service members may not be in uniform.
- ✓ Sign petitions for legislative action or to place a candidate's name on the ballot, if done as a private citizen and not as a representative of the armed forces.
- ✓ Donate money to a political party, candidate, organization or committee.
- ✓ Display a bumper sticker on your personally owned vehicles.
- ✓ Wear political t-shirts or buttons, as long as not in uniform, performing military duties, or when it could give the appearance of DoD or U.S. Army endorsement.

### ACTIVE DUTY SOLDIERS CANNOT:

- ⊘ Attempt to influence the view, position, or vote of any subordinate.
- ⊘ Use a government computer or other equipment to engage in political activity.
- ⊘ Attend a political event (meeting, rally, fundraiser, debate, convention) in uniform, whether it is partisan or nonpartisan.
- ⊘ Express personal opinions with the implication that your opinions are Army or DoD policy.
- ⊘ Organize, lead, sponsor, or speak at partisan political events.
- ⊘ Engage in partisan political fundraising activities – except as a donor.
- ⊘ Place political signs on your vehicle (larger than a bumper sticker).
- ⊘ Display any type of political sign, banner, poster or similar device in your office, work area, barracks room, or on-base residence (including privatized housing).
- ⊘ Engage in a public or organized recruitment of others to run for political office.
- ⊘ Run for political office without written approval of the Secretary of the Army.

Department of the Army  
Inspector General



The Inspector General  
LTG Donna W. Martin

Deputy,  
The Inspector General  
BG James K. Dooghan

The Inspector General  
Sergeant Major  
SGM Delia Quintero

Army Voting  
Assistance Program



[https://www.fvap.gov/  
military-voter](https://www.fvap.gov/military-voter)

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### Resources:

- DODD 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces," February 19, 2008.
- Army Regulation 608-20 (Army Voting Assistance Program), November 13, 2020.