



THE IG UPDATE



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Guard & Reserve Political Activities

As the 2024 presidential elections draw closer, National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers 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.

NG/AR NOT ON ACTIVE DUTY CAN:

- ✓ Register to vote, cast a vote, and encourage others to vote.
- ✓ Express personal opinions on political candidates and issues.
- ✓ USAR/ARNG Soldiers *not on active duty* may run for political office, and include their current or former duties, title, position, or photos in uniform, when shown with other non-military biographical details.
 - ✓ However, a photo in uniform may not be used as the primary graphic in campaign materials (including websites and social media). Any mention of military affiliation must also state DOD, Army, or State endorsement is not implied.
- ✓ Organize, lead, sponsor, or speak at partisan political events, or engage in political fundraising, when not in uniform or giving the appearance of DOD, Army, or State endorsement.
- ✓ 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 state that your views do not represent those of the DOD, Army, or National Guard/Army Reserve.
- ✓ Attend partisan or non-partisan political rallies and clubs 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 DOD.
- ✓ Donate money to a political party, candidate, organization or committee.
- ✓ 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.

NG/AR NOT ON AD CANNOT:

- ⊘ Attempt to influence the view, position, or vote of any military 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.
- ⊘ Display any type of political sign, banner, poster or similar device in your military 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, while on duty.

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>

520-669-5478,
312-983-8475 (DSN),
USArmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-voting-questions@army.mil

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.