

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY		
EFFECTIVE: 11/98 REVISED: 05/12	POLICY NUMBER 1.25	Page 1 of 1

Applicable to: All Units

Responsibility for Administration: Vice President for Business Affairs

Title: Political Activity

Under federal law, the University may not participate in, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. However, members of the University community are encouraged to fulfill their civic responsibilities as private citizens. There are no restraints upon an employee’s personal political activity, provided the employee is acting as a private citizen and not representing the University.

No University resources, time or property may be used for or on behalf of any political candidate, campaign or organization; this includes, but is not limited to, the Samford University seal, campus images, and all logos and identifying marks.

The Internal Revenue Code permits tax-exempt organizations like Samford University to sponsor political forums, candidate speeches and/or debates provided no candidate either directly or indirectly receives an endorsement, preference, or support from the University.

At the beginning of each political forum, candidate speech or debate, a representative of the sponsoring group or organization should deliver the following disclaimer: “This event is sponsored by _____. The use of Samford University facilities for this event does not constitute an endorsement by the University. Samford University does not endorse or oppose any candidate or organization in connection any political campaign or election.”

The Samford University campus is private property. Campaign signs cannot be placed on University property, including university property along Lakeshore Drive. Signs placed in violation of this policy will be removed.

Employees of Samford may fulfill their civic and political rights and responsibilities as private citizens by seeking and holding public office so long as they make it clear that they are acting in a private and individual capacity, and that their activities have neither University sponsorship nor support. Any employee who anticipates seeking election to public office or accepting appointment to one must confer with the employee’s immediate supervisor to explore the possibilities of conflict of interest or interference with the ability to devote sufficient time and energy to employment responsibilities.