

## **Guidelines for Political Campaigns on School Campus**

Caldwell County Schools encourages participation in the political process and believes that an informed electorate is an essential element of a democratic society. Twelve of our schools serve as polling sites and many of our staff members are involved in political campaigns. As a school system we are neutral to candidates and political issues. Please use the following guidelines.

### **Political Signs (other than Election Day)**

- No political signs are allowed on school property at any time.
- If signs are on the school property, it is the responsibility of the candidate to remove the sign; however, if they fail to remove them immediately then the principal is responsible to have the signs removed.

### **Political Signs on Election Day at the 13 polling sites only:**

- Signs are ***NOT*** allowed within 50 feet of the poll site.
- Signs can be placed on site after 5:00 PM on the night before the elections.
- Signs must be removed by the candidates by the following day at 5:00 PM. If the candidate has not removed the sign, then the principal is responsible to have the signs removed.
- Signs not removed by the time allowed should be disposed of.

### **Campaigning by Staff Members:**

- School personnel shall not be denied the right to participate in political activities, but under no circumstances will personnel exploit their positions in order to indoctrinate pupils or colleagues with the views of one political party or candidate.
- School employees will not campaign on school premises or on school time; collect funds; distribute materials; use school equipment, supplies or mail service; or, involves students while participating in political activities.
- Personnel and students shall not be subject to political solicitations while on school property. Campaign literature, cards, signs, etc., shall not be distributed through the school mailboxes or be displayed on school property.
- Political activities in support of or in opposition to specific candidates or issues may not be engaged in while employees are officially carrying out their professional responsibilities with students. This, however, is not to be construed as prohibiting the impartial study and discussion of political or other controversial issues. School employees engaging in political activities outside the schools shall make it clear that their utterances and actions are theirs as individuals and that these do not represent the views of the school system.

### **Campaigning by Candidates:**

- Candidates are allowed to distribute cards and literature at PTA/PTO meetings and other after school meetings/programs including school sports events.
- All materials must be distributed outside the gates at sporting events, festivals, and other events.
- Signs on vehicles are permitted at events.