

# ANSWERS FROM THE CITY ETHICIST

## #1: City Worker Gets Political

**Question:** *It's election year, and I'd like to volunteer to work for my favorite candidate. Is it permissible to work for the City and also work on a campaign?*

**-Politically Active in Brooklyn**

**Answer:** It depends on what you mean by "work," *Active*. If you get paid, you'll be subject to Chapter 68's outside employment restrictions. *Volunteering* for a political campaign, however, would generally be OK. Of course, there are still a few rules you must follow. As with any non-City activity, you may not do the political activity on City time or use City resources, and you may not use City personnel to work on any political activity.

In fact, all City employees are prohibited from even *asking* any of their subordinates to work on a campaign. This doesn't mean that a supervisor and subordinate can't volunteer for the same political campaign, but a supervisor can't ask a subordinate to contribute anything to the campaign - work, money, or anything else.

So, *Active*, as long as you follow these rules, there's no reason why you can't support the candidate of your choice.

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