

**TEXARKANA, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL**

<i>Effective Date</i> February 1, 2008		<i>Amended Date</i>		<i>Directive</i> 2.15.1	
<i>Subject</i> Political Activity					
<i>Reference</i>					
<i>Distribution</i> All Personnel City Manager City Attorney		<i>TPCA Best Practices Recognition Program Reference</i> 2.15.1 Political Activity		<i>Review Date</i> August 12, 2023	
<i>Pages</i> 2					

This Operations Directive is for internal use only and does not enhance an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as a creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this Operations Directive, if proven, may only form the basis for a complaint by this Department, and only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

SECTION 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to prohibit employees from being involved in political activities while on duty or while in uniform.

SECTION 2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Department that all employees are prohibited from inappropriate political activities as described in the procedures section of this policy.

SECTION 3 PROCEDURES

- A. Any member of the Department, either individually or as a member of a group or political organization, may take part in a campaign of any political organization seeking the election of candidates or any individual political candidate for office provided that the Department member is off duty and not on the Department's premises. Uniformed members may not be in uniform when engaging in such activity. No such political activities by a member of a group or organization shall be carried on in the name of the City or any department, bureau, division or agency thereof, or by any group of employees in the Department.
- B. No member of the Department shall use his/her official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election or nomination for office, and no member of the Department shall directly or indirectly coerce, attempt to coerce, command, or advise another member of the Department, or any employee of the City, to pay, lend, or contribute anything of value to a party, committee, organization, agency, or person for political purposes.
- C. No sworn officer shall continue in such position, after being elected to any public office elected by the voters of the City of Texarkana, Texas.
- D. No sworn officer shall continue in such position, after becoming a candidate for nomination or election to any public office in the City of Texarkana, Texas.

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- E. Department members shall not use Department or City funds, supplies for political purposes or solicitation for activities or causes not related to their job.
- F. Electioneering in any City office, building or premises during working hours is prohibited.
- G. Employees shall not join or belong to any organization, which has as a purpose the overthrow the established government by force.
- H. RESPONSIBILITY
 - 1. All members of the Department shall know and comply with all aspects of this directive.
 - 2. All Division Commanders and supervisory personnel are responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions and intent of this directive.