Political Campaigning on Campus

Voter Registration – The University has guidelines for University-Sponsored voter registration drives. These guidelines are attached. If a student organization or department is planning a campus-wide registration drive we ask them to abide by these guidelines to try to ensure the integrity of the drive and make sure that students are actually getting registered. Organizations that are interested in voter registration should consider working with the American Democracy Project. ADP registers voters through the on-line platform, TurboVote.

Candidates, campaign volunteers, and other individuals/organizations cannot be prohibited from registering students to vote. They do not have to have our permission or abide by our guidelines. Students should understand that there is some risk associated with registering to vote through an individual or organization that is not associated with the University. The University cannot ensure that registration forms completed with outside organizations will be submitted.

Campaigning – Candidates and campaign volunteers, including those not associated with campus, can campaign on campus in public spaces, including outdoor areas and common areas in classroom buildings and other buildings. Volunteers can engage in conversation, distribute printed materials, solicit volunteers, register voters, make informal speeches, and engage in other behavior that we allow in public spaces, so long as they abide by university policies and procedures. Campaign activities are not allowed in Residence Halls.

Candidates that would like to schedule a table in HMSU or Dede Plaza must be associated with a student organization. This guideline is consistent with the University’s practice of only allowing student organizations to schedule tables at these locations.

Campaign flyers and printed materials can be posted on bulletin boards or other areas that are available for public posting. Banners and table tents in the Commons or other University venues that support a specific candidate or party are prohibited. Chalking is allowed on flat, horizontal outdoor spaces that are not under cover. Water soluble chalk must be used.

Campaign yard signs are prohibited on campus.

Election day campaigning or electioneering is allowed given that candidates or their volunteers abide by state and local election laws and University policy. Current Indiana law prohibits campaigning within 50 feet of a voting center or polling place.

Campaign Events - Candidates that would like to schedule any University venue for an event should be directed to Conference and Event Services. http://venues.indstate.edu/