

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
1991 SESSION

CHAPTER 619  
HOUSE BILL 1013

AN ACT TO DEFINE THE LIMITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES'  
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Chapter 153A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 153A-99. County employee political activity.**

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to ensure that county employees are not subjected to political or partisan coercion while performing their job duties, and to ensure that public funds are not used for political or partisan activities.

It is not the purpose of this section to allow infringement upon the rights of employees to engage in free speech and free association. Every county employee has a civic responsibility to support good government by every available means and in every appropriate manner. Employees are not restricted from affiliating with civic organizations of a partisan or political nature, nor are employees, while off duty, restricted from attending political meetings, or advocating and supporting the principles or policies of civic or political organizations, or supporting partisan or nonpartisan candidates of their choice in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the State and the Constitution and laws of the United States of America.

(b) Definitions. For the purposes of this section:

- (1) 'County employee' or 'employee' means any person employed by a county or any department or program thereof that is supported, in whole or in part, by county funds;
- (2) 'On duty' means that time period when an employee is engaged in the duties of his or her employment; and
- (3) 'Workplace' means any place where an employee engages in his or her job duties.

(c) No employee while on duty or in the workplace may:

- (1) Use his or her official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election or nomination for political office; or
- (2) Coerce, solicit, or compel contributions for political or partisan purposes by another employee.

(d) No employee may be required as a duty or condition of employment, promotion, or tenure of office to contribute funds for political or partisan purposes.

(e) No employee may use county funds, supplies, or equipment for partisan purposes, or for political purposes except where such political uses are otherwise permitted by law.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a county from adopting or enforcing personnel policies not in conflict with the rights of employees under the Constitution and laws of the State or the Constitution and laws of the United States of America."

Sec. 2. Chapter 160A is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 160A-99. City employee political activity.**

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to ensure that city employees are not subjected to political or partisan coercion while performing their job duties, and to ensure that public funds are not used for political or partisan activities.

It is not the purpose of this section to allow infringement upon the rights of employees to engage in free speech and free association. Every city employee has a civic responsibility to support good government by every available means and in every appropriate manner. Employees are not restricted from affiliating with civic organizations of a partisan or political nature, nor are employees, while off duty, restricted from attending political meetings, or advocating and supporting the principles or policies of civic or political organizations, or supporting partisan or nonpartisan candidates of their choice in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the State and the Constitution and laws of the United States of America.

(b) Definitions. For the purposes of this section:

(1) 'City employee' or 'employee' means any person employed by a city or any department or program thereof that is supported, in whole or in part, by city funds;

(2) 'On duty' means that time period when an employee is engaged in the duties of his or her employment; and

(3) 'Workplace' means any place where an employee engages in his or her job duties.

(c) No employee while on duty or in the workplace may:

(1) Use his or her official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election or nomination for political office; or

(2) Coerce, solicit, or compel contributions for political or partisan purposes by another employee.

(d) No employee may be required as a duty or condition of employment, promotion, or tenure of office to contribute funds for political or partisan purposes.

(e) No employee may use city funds, supplies, or equipment for partisan purposes, or for political purposes except where such political uses are otherwise permitted by law.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a city from adopting or enforcing personnel policies not in conflict with the rights of employees under the Constitution and laws of the State or the Constitution and laws of the United States of America."

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective October 1, 1991.  
In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 9th day of July,  
1991.

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James C. Gardner  
President of the Senate

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Daniel Blue, Jr.  
Speaker of the House of Representatives