

**PART 734—POLITICAL ACTIVITIES
OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

Subpart A—General Provisions

Sec.

- 734.101 Definitions.
734.102 Jurisdiction.
734.103 Multicandidate political committees of Federal labor organizations and Federal employee organizations.
734.104 Restriction of political activity.

Subpart B—Permitted Activities

- 734.201 Exclusion from coverage.
734.202 Permitted activities.
734.203 Participation in nonpartisan activities.
734.204 Participation in political organizations.
734.205 Participation in political campaigns.
734.206 Participation in elections.
734.207 Candidacy for public office.
734.208 Participation in fundraising.

Subpart C—Prohibited Activities

- 734.301 Exclusion from coverage.
734.302 Use of official authority; prohibition.
734.303 Fundraising.
734.304 Candidacy for public office.
734.305 Soliciting or discouraging the political participation of certain persons.
734.306 Participation in political activities while on duty, in uniform, in any room or building occupied in the discharge of official duties, or using a Federal vehicle.
734.307 Campaigning for a spouse or family member.

**Subpart D—Employees in Certain
Agencies and Positions**

- 734.401 Coverage.
734.402 Expression of an employee's individual opinion.
734.403 Participation in elections.
734.404 Participation in political organizations.
734.405 Campaigning for a spouse or family member.
734.406 Participation in political activities while on duty, in uniform, in any room or building occupied in the discharge of official duties, or using a Federal vehicle; prohibition.
734.407 Use of official authority; prohibition.
734.408 Participation in political management and political campaigning; prohibitions.
734.409 Participation in political organizations; prohibitions.

- 734.410 Participation in political fundraising; prohibitions.
734.411 Participation in political campaigning; prohibitions.
734.412 Participation in elections; prohibitions.
734.413 Employees of the Federal Election Commission; prohibitions.

**Subpart E—Special Provisions for Certain
Presidential Appointees and Employees
Paid From the Appropriation for
the Executive Office of the President**

- 734.501 Permitted and prohibited activities.
734.502 Participation in political activity while on duty, in uniform, in any room or building occupied in the discharge of official duties, or using a Federal vehicle.
734.503 Allocation and reimbursement of costs associated with political activities.
734.504 Contributions to political action committees through voluntary payroll allotments prohibited.

**Subpart F—Employees Who Work on an
Irregular or Occasional Basis**

- 734.601 Employees who work on an irregular or occasional basis.

**Subpart G—Related Statutes and Executive
Orders**

- 734.701 General.
734.702 Related statutes and Executive orders.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 1103, 1104, 7325; Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1978, 92 Stat. 3783, 3 CFR 1978 Comp. p. 323; and E.O. 12107, 3 CFR 1978 Comp. p. 264.

SOURCE: 59 FR 48769, Sept. 23, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 734.101 Definitions.

For the purposes of this part:

Accept means to come into possession of something from a person officially on behalf of a candidate, a campaign, a political party, or a partisan political group, but does not include ministerial activities which precede or follow this official act.

Candidate means an individual who seeks nomination or election to any elective office whether or not the person is elected. An individual is deemed to be a candidate if the individual has received political contributions or made expenditures or has consented to

Office of Personnel Management

§ 734.101

another person receiving contributions or making expenditures with a view to bringing about the individual's nomination or election.

Campaign means all acts done by a candidate and his or her adherents to obtain a majority or plurality of the votes to be cast toward a nomination or in an election.

Election includes a primary, special, runoff, or general election.

Employee means any individual (other than the President, Vice President, or a member of the uniformed services) employed or holding office in—

(1) An Executive agency other than the General Accounting Office;

(2) A position within the competitive service which is not in an Executive agency;

(3) The Government of the District of Columbia, other than the Mayor or a member of the City Council or the Recorder of Deeds; or

(4) The United States Postal Service or the Postal Rate Commission.

Employing office shall have the meaning given by the head of each agency or instrumentality of the United States Government or District of Columbia Government covered by this part. Each agency or instrumentality shall provide notice identifying the appropriate employing offices within it through internal agency notice procedures.

Federal employee organization means any lawful nonprofit organization, association, society, or club composed of Federal employees.

Federal labor organization means an organization defined in 5 U.S.C. 7103(a)(4).

Multicandidate political committee means an organization defined in 2 U.S.C. 441a(a)(4).

Nonpartisan election means—

(1) An election in which none of the candidates is to be nominated or elected as representing a political party any of whose candidates for Presidential elector received votes in the last preceding election at which Presidential electors were selected; or

(2) An election involving a question or issue which is not specifically identified with a political party, such as a constitutional amendment, referendum, approval of a municipal ordi-

nance, or any question or issue of a similar character.

Occasional means occurring infrequently, at irregular intervals, and according to no fixed or certain scheme; acting or serving for the occasion or only on particular occasions.

Office means the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

On Duty means the time period when an employee is:

(1) In a pay status other than paid leave, compensatory time off, credit hours, time off as an incentive award, or excused or authorized absence (including leave without pay); or

(2) Representing any agency or instrumentality of the United States Government or any agency or instrumentality of the District of Columbia Government in an official capacity.

Partisan when used as an adjective means related to a political party.

Partisan political group means any committee, club, or other organization which is affiliated with a political party or candidate for public office in a partisan election, or organized for a partisan purpose, or which engages in partisan political activity.

Partisan political office means any office for which any candidate is nominated or elected as representing a party any of whose candidates for Presidential elector received votes in the last preceding election at which Presidential electors were selected, but does not include any office or position within a political party or affiliated organization.

Person means an individual; a State, local, or foreign government; or a corporation and subsidiaries it controls, company, association, firm, partnership, society, joint stock company, or any other organization or institution, including any officer, employee, or agent of such person or entity.

Political Action Committee means any committee, association, or organization (whether or not incorporated) which accepts contributions or makes expenditures for the purpose of influencing, or attempting to influence, the nomination or election of one or more individuals to Federal, State, or local elective public office.

Political activity means an activity directed toward the success or failure of

§ 734.102

5 CFR Ch. I (1-1-04 Edition)

a political party, candidate for partisan political office, or partisan political group.

Political contribution means any gift, subscription, loan, advance, or deposit of money or anything of value, made for any political purpose.

(a) A political contribution includes:

(1) Any contract, promise, or agreement, express or implied, whether or not legally enforceable, to make a contribution for any political purpose;

(2) Any payment by any person, other than a candidate or a political party or affiliated organization, of compensation for the personal services of another person which are rendered to any candidate or political party or affiliated organization without charge for any political purpose; and

(3) The provision of personal services, paid or unpaid, for any political purpose.

(b) A political contribution does not include the value of services provided without compensation by any individual who volunteers on behalf of any candidate, campaign, political party, or partisan political group.

Political management means the direction or supervision of a partisan political group or campaign for partisan political office.

Political party means a national political party, a State political party, or an affiliated organization.

Political purpose means an objective of promoting or opposing a political party, candidate for partisan political office, or partisan political group.

Receive means to come into possession of something from a person officially on behalf of a candidate, a campaign, a political party, or a partisan political group, but does not include ministerial activities which precede or follow this official act.

Recurrent means occurring frequently, or periodically on a regular basis.

Room or building occupied in the discharge of official duties by an individual employed or holding office in the Government of the United States or any agency thereof includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Any Federally owned space (including, but not limited to, "public buildings" as defined in 40 U.S.C. 612(1)) or Federally leased space in which Fed-

eral employees perform official duties on a regular basis;

(2) Public areas as defined in 40 U.S.C. 490(a)(17) and 41 CFR 101-20.003 of buildings under the custody and control of the General Services Administration.

(3) A room or building occupied in the discharge of official duties by an individual employed or holding office in the Government of the United States or any agency thereof does not include rooms in the White House, or in the residence of the Vice President, which are part of the Residence area or which are not regularly used solely in the discharge of official duties.

Solicit means to request expressly of another person that he or she contribute something to a candidate, a campaign, a political party, or partisan political group.

Subordinate refers to the relationship between two employees when one employee is under the supervisory authority, control or administrative direction of the other employee.

Uniformed services means uniformed services as defined in 5 U.S.C. 2101(3).

[59 FR 48769, Sept. 23, 1994, as amended at 61 FR 35099, July 5, 1996]

§ 734.102 Jurisdiction.

(a) The United States Office of Special Counsel has exclusive authority to investigate allegations of political activity prohibited by the Hatch Act Reform Amendments of 1993, as implemented by 5 CFR part 734, prosecute alleged violations before the United States Merit Systems Protection Board, and render advisory opinions concerning the applicability of 5 CFR part 734 to the political activity of Federal employees and employees of the District of Columbia government. (5 U.S.C. 1212 and 1216. Advice concerning the Hatch Act Reform Amendments may be requested from the Office of Special Counsel:

(1) By letter addressed to the Office of Special Counsel at 1730 M Street NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036, or

(2) By telephone on (202) 653-7188, or (1-800) 854-2824.

(b) The Merit Systems Protection Board has exclusive authority to determine whether a violation of the Hatch