

## 2019 Campaign and EmployeePolitical Activity

City of Charlotte

June, 24, 2019



- State Statute
- Guidelines for Employees
- Guidelines for Current Elected Officials

STATE STATUTE NCGS §160A-169

Purpose:

- Ensure city employees are NOT
  - Subjected to political or partisan coercion while performing their job duties,
  - Restricted from **political activities**\* while **off** duty.
- Ensure public funds are not used for political or partisan activities.

\*An activity directed toward the success or failure of a partisan candidate, political party, or partisan political group.



- Employees may not
  - > Be required to contribute funds for political purposes.
  - Use city funds, supplies, or equipment for partisan or political purposes.
- •While on duty or in the workplace, employees may not:
  - Use official authority or influence to affect the result of an election.
  - ➢Solicit contributions for political or partisan purposes.



- Register and vote as they chose
- Contribute to political parties, campaigns, or groups
- Attend political rallies, meetings or fundraisers
- Be members of political clubs or parties
- Sign nominating petitions
- Follow, like, or comment on the social media pages of a candidate for a partisan office, political party or partisan group

## ON DUTY/IN THE WORKPLACE PROHIBITION

- Employees may NOT engage in political activity while
  - On duty; including telecommuting
  - In a government room or building
  - > Wearing an official uniform or insignia
  - Using a government vehicle
  - Examples:
    - Wearing buttons, t-shirts, hats, etc.
    - Displaying screen savers, posters, candidate photos, etc.
    - Making online donations

CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

## While <u>on duty or using city equipment</u>, staff members:

- Cannot
  - Attend a campaign or political function.
  - Monitor or make changes to campaign or political website or social media.
  - Develop speaking points for a political function.
  - Coordinate public meetings (e.g. Town Hall meetings)
- Must provide every request for information made by an elected official, and response to that request, to all candidates via candidate portal.
- Can continue to maintain calendars, but may not organize meetings relating to a political activity.



## QUESTIONS?