

Important Information for Partisan Candidates

Ethics and Campaign Finance Reporting

- **State and Local Candidates:** You must file a Statement of Economic Interest and Campaign Disclosure with the State Ethics Commission through the agency's website by certain deadlines. You may be fined by the Ethics Commission for failure to file properly. Visit the State Ethics Commission's website for more information: <https://ethics.sc.gov/>
- **Federal Candidates:** You must file with the Federal Election Commission. Visit the Federal Election Commission's website for more information: <https://www.fec.gov/>

Absentee Voting

- You and members of your paid campaign staff, including volunteers reimbursed for time expended on campaign activity, may not:
 - Request an absentee ballot application for any person other than immediate family.
 - Individuals are limited to five application requests in addition to their own. *
- Return another voter's absentee ballot other than immediate family. If returning a family member's ballot, you and the family member must complete the Authorization to Return Absentee Ballot Form.
 - Individuals can return five absentee ballots in addition to their own. *
- It is illegal to procure votes by threat, intimidation, force, deception, mistreatment, abuse, or fraud; or by the payment, delivery, or promise of money or other article of value. *

* Violations of these provisions are felonies punishable by up to a \$5,000 fine and up to 5 years in prison.

At the Polling Place

Campaign Material

- May not be displayed or distributed within 500 feet of entrance to the polling place.
- Campaign material is any written or visual material that has the intention or effect of supporting or opposing any candidate or question in the current election.

Campaigning

- Inside the polling place: No campaigning allowed.
- Outside the polling place:
 - You and your campaign staff may greet voters if the activity is not intimidating or disruptive.
 - You can wear a badge no larger than 4 ¼" x 4 ¼" containing your name and office. You may not wear the badge inside the polling place.

Poll Watchers

- Watchers are appointed by political parties, not the candidates. Parties can appoint up to two watchers at a time per 1,000 voters in the precinct to observe the process in a polling place.
- Requirements:
 - Must be a qualified voter in the county.
 - Must present letter to managers from the party certifying them to watch in the precinct.
 - Must wear badge no larger than 4 ¼" x 4 ¼" stating the person is a watcher for the party.
- Must direct any voter challenges or questions to the managers and not to voters.
- May not interfere with the orderly conduct of the election or attempt to influence voters.