



Guidelines for Candidates for Elected Office and Volunteer Bar Association

The Florida International University College of Law (“FIU Law”), the FIU Law Alumni Association (the “Association”), and the Association’s Board of Directors (the “Board”) (collectively, “FIU”) must adhere to applicable laws and University policies regarding political activity, including election or other campaign-related activities on behalf of any political party or candidate. Accordingly, although FIU is proud of alumni who desire to engage in public service and contribute to their community, candidates seeking elected office may not receive any assistance or special treatment from FIU in connection with any partisan or campaign-related effort.

The following guidelines apply to activities undertaken by FIU employees, Board members or Association members when acting in their official capacities (and do not apply to employees, Board members or Association members when acting in their individual capacities as private citizens).

The following activities are permitted under applicable laws and policies:

1. FIU may engage in and sponsor non-partisan educational, community engagement, and academic research endeavors that provide equal opportunity for participation without regard for political affiliation or viewpoint.
2. FIU may provide opportunities for candidates to speak at FIU events, provided all legally-qualified candidates are invited on an equal basis and the appearances involve speeches, question-and-answer sessions, or similar communications in an academic setting and not as campaign rallies or fundraisers. If FIU conducts or sponsors a public forum to which all legally-qualified candidates are invited and given equal opportunity to speak, the format and content of the forum must be presented in a neutral manner.
3. FIU may invite candidates to speak in a non-candidate capacity, provided that the individual is chosen to speak for reasons other than his or her candidacy and speaks only in his or her non-candidate capacity without any reference to the individual’s election.

4. FIU may rent facilities to candidates at the usual and normal charge, so long as FIU provides equal opportunity for rental to other candidates on the same terms. Campaign fundraisers can only occur in state-owned buildings when facilities are rented at the usual and normal charges.
5. FIU may also allow student groups to use FIU facilities for partisan political purposes, provided such groups pay the usual and normal charges applicable to student groups. With respect to student group activities, FIU should take reasonable steps to avoid any appearance of an official FIU endorsement of the student group activity.
6. FIU may assist alumni seeking election to or service on volunteer bar associations (American Bar Association, Cuban American Bar Association, etc.) and may only do so without consideration of the candidate's party or political affiliation. FIU may include announcements about alumni candidates for volunteer bar associations in the Association's monthly newsletter, and/or through other forms of communication that routinely promote the activities of alumni or provide information about alumni accomplishments or engagement efforts. FIU may not provide any candidate with alumni list-servs or alumni registers or other donor information that is confidential and exempt from public disclosure under Florida law.

The following activities are prohibited:

1. FIU may not engage in partisan, campaign activities, such as rallies or fundraisers.
2. Endorsements: FIU may not sponsor events to advance a candidacy or party, and may not endorse, promote, or assist a candidate for elected office or a political party in any official capacity (i.e. through communications at official FIU events or in official FIU publications such as the Association's newsletter).
3. FIU may not provide a candidate or a party with a forum to advance the candidate's party or agenda or make available facilities to any candidate or party, except for facilities rented at the usual and normal charges and made available to other candidates). FIU Law, the Association, and the Board may not provide a candidate with alumni email list-servs or alumni registers.
4. No political contributions may be made or accepted in FIU buildings.

Adopted by the FIU Law Alumni Association Board of Directors – June 18, 2014