

Northeast Texas Community College

Political Events & Expressive Activities Guidelines

Purpose

These guidelines support civic engagement while maintaining strict institutional neutrality. They provide direction for handling political events and expressive activities on campus in compliance with the U.S. Constitution, Texas Constitution, and applicable Texas Education Code provisions.

Institutional Neutrality

Northeast Texas Community College (NTCC) does not endorse, oppose, or promote any political party, candidate, or political position. The College may provide access to its facilities as a neutral forum but shall not sponsor, co-host, or advocate for political activity.

Applicability

These guidelines apply to political parties, candidates for public office, campaigns, student organizations, employees, and external individuals or organizations requesting to engage in political or expressive activity on campus.

Candidate Forums (Multiple Candidates)

Candidate forums may be permitted when all declared candidates for the same office are invited, equal time is provided, a neutral moderator is used, no fundraising occurs, and the event serves an educational or informational purpose.

Single-Candidate Events or Political Rallies

Single-candidate events or rallies may be permitted only as neutral facility use. The College shall not sponsor or promote the event, standard facility use procedures and fees apply, and College branding may not be used.

Political Party Events

Recognized political parties may request use of College facilities under the same neutral criteria applied to other external organizations. Approval or denial shall not be based on political viewpoint.

Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions

The College may impose reasonable, content-neutral, and viewpoint-neutral restrictions related to scheduling, location, attendance size, noise, safety, security, and compliance history. Decisions shall not be based on anticipated controversy.

Fees and Costs

The College may charge reasonable facility use fees based on objective factors such as space, duration, staffing, security, and equipment needs. Fee waivers, if offered, must be available on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Required Disclaimer

All political events must include the following disclaimer in posted and verbal form:

“This event is not sponsored by Northeast Texas Community College. The College does not endorse any candidate, political party, or political position.”

Safety and Order

NTCC reserves the right to enforce safety and disruption policies, require identification during periods of disruption, remove disruptive individuals, and withdraw consent to remain on campus as authorized by law.

Relationship to Board Policy and Law

These guidelines operate in harmony with GD(LEGAL)-LJC, GDA(LEGAL)-LJC, applicable Facilities Use policies, and Texas Education Code §51.9315.