



HARLANDALE

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Statement Regarding Election Campaigning

The Harlandale Independent School District does not and will not endorse, support or campaign for any political candidate running for any political office. Further, the District does not and will not allow for campaigning or electioneering by any political candidate on district property, at district events, or any district facilities in accordance with the district policy.

District Policy BBBB (Legal) and Texas Education Code section 11.169 prohibit the expenditure of any school district funds or resources to electioneer for or against any candidate. Section 255.003 of the Texas Election Code makes it a Class A misdemeanor for an officer or employee of a public school district to knowingly spend or authorize the spending of public funds for political advertising in support of or to oppose any candidate. The Texas Ethics Commission has defined “political advertising” broadly to include any “communication supporting or opposing a candidate for nomination or election to a public office” and concluded that section 255.003 prohibits any distribution of political advertising that involves school district employees on school district time or school district equipment. For example, because the use of a school facility for meetings convened by the district requires expenditure of school district funds, Harlandale ISD is prohibited by its own policy, section 11.169 of the Education Code, and section 255.003 of the Election Code from allowing candidates to electioneer during any school-related meeting held on district property.

While we welcome and appreciate people participating in the election process, if the District becomes aware of any one engaging in any campaigning or electioneering conduct for or against a candidate (or measure), in violation of district policy, they will be directed to cease such conduct.

Thank you for your understanding and attention to this matter.