

## **MCCPTA and 2020 MCPS Board of Education Campaign Season**

*PTA governance documents allow PTA officers and other volunteers, acting in their individual capacity, to participate freely in the partisan political process.  
(See MCCPTA and National PTA governance information at the end of this document)*

*This document was drafted because there are MCCPTA Board members running for public office. The target audience is MCCPTA officers and board members. However, the general principles apply to local PTAs.*

Do not post MCCPTA items on personal social media if you are also personally supporting a candidate through that personal account. Don't re-share MCCPTA information through those accounts.

When attending an event, either attend as an MCCPTA representative or candidate supporter, not both.

If you typically attend an event as an MCCPTA representative, you should probably attend in that capacity during the campaign. (Not a hard rule; consider perception of attendees.)

If you are at an event supporting a candidate and someone wants to discuss MCCPTA work, offer to talk to them later. However, you don't need to deny that you are an officer or board member.

Make sure the campaign doesn't prevent you from doing your MCCPTA job.

Candidate forums and surveys- because the most recent MCCPTA President (resigned in January) is running for Board of Education, the MCCPTA officers will not be involved with planning the content of the MCCPTA/League of Women Voters Candidate Forum or preparing the candidate survey. Those duties have been turned over to other board members.

## Information from governance documents

### **MCCPTA bylaws (wording required by MD PTA)**

Article III, paragraph g

The association or members in their official capacities shall not, directly or indirectly, participate or intervene (in any way, including the publishing or distributing of statements) in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office; or devote more than an insubstantial part of its activities to attempting to influence legislation by propaganda or otherwise.

### **From National PTA BOD Governance Manual**

Section 1.07 Guidelines for National PTA Board Member Involvement in Political Activity

The PTA represents parents, educators, community leaders and anyone concerned with the welfare of children and youth; PTA has been advocating for their health, safety, education, protection and general welfare for over 100 years. PTA representatives should conform to the requirements of the law, both in service to the PTA and in their personal affairs. They should observe high standards of conduct so that the integrity, independence, and tax exemption of the PTA may be preserved.

I. The following rules which govern activities of members of 501(c)3 associations should be observed:

A. Except as stated in Section 1.06 2., an officer, employee, or volunteer of the National, any state or local PTA, acting solely in his or her individual capacity, may participate freely in the partisan political process.

B. However, in one's official capacity as an officer, employee, or volunteer of the PTA, an individual may not:

- i. Make speeches for a partisan political association or candidate or publicly endorse a candidate for public office.
- ii. Submit funds for or pay an assessment or make a contribution to political gatherings, or purchase tickets for political party dinners or other functions.
- iii. Endorse a political candidate.

C. If a PTA official speaks at a campaign rally supporting a particular candidate, he or she should not be introduced in his or her official capacity. Any written material in which an individual's name appears clearly should state that his or her affiliation with PTA is noted for identification purposes only.

(Section 1.06 2, referenced above: All members of the National PTA governance structure shall ensure that nonpublic information about other persons or organizations is treated as confidential and shall not be disclosed.)