

HATCH ACT RULES
Apply to every employee, all the time

The [Hatch Act](#) governs political activity (any activity directed toward the success or failure of a partisan candidate, political party or partisan political group). It does not apply to nonpartisan issues or events. This [Hatch Act chart](#) describes how the rules apply to you, depending on your type of appointment.

- All employees may:
 - Express their opinions privately and publicly on political subjects;
 - Be politically active in connection with a question that is not specifically identified with a political party, such as a constitutional amendment, referendum, approval of a municipal ordinance or any other question or issue of a similar character;
 - Participate in the nonpartisan activities of a civic, community, social, labor, or professional organization, or of a similar organization; and
 - Participate fully in public affairs, except as prohibited by other federal law, in a manner that does not compromise their efficiency or integrity as employees or the neutrality, efficiency, or integrity of EPA. See 5 C.F.R. § 734.203, available at [5 C.F.R. Part 734](#).
- The [Office of Special Counsel](#) oversees implementation (and prosecution of) the Hatch Act. It has a general [FAQ on the Hatch Act](#) (most of us are lesser restricted employees), as well as an [FAQ specific to the Hatch Act and social media](#).

For more information on social media and the Hatch Act, visit the [OGC/Ethics website](#).