



Ontario Election Activities Frequently Asked Questions

What you can and can't do!

1. Can my local, region, or component contribute directly to any registered political party?

NO. Unions are prohibited from contributing any money or human resources to political parties. This applies to all parts of the union, including councils and committees.

2. Can my union local contribute directly to a local campaign, riding association or nomination contestant?

NO. Unions, including locals, committees and other internal bodies, are prohibited from contributing any money or human resources to local candidates, campaigns, or ridings.

3. Can union staff work on partisan election campaigns?

NO. Union staff cannot be **directed** to work on a candidate's campaign or for a political party by their employer during work hours. In the event a union staff member **wants** to work on a candidate's election campaign, they must **NOT** be paid by their employer to do so, nor can they be directed to do such work.

4. Can PSAC members be paid by a union to work on an election campaign?

NO. PSAC members cannot be hired to work on a candidate's campaign or for a political party by the union. If a member wants to work on a candidate's campaign, they must do so on their own time. (See PSAC's political rights for PSAC members working in the federal public service.)

5. Can union staff take paid leave from their employer to run as candidates?

YES. A union is legally permitted to give a staff member paid leave (their normal leave) during the campaign period to run for a nomination or to be a candidate. This is NOT considered a contribution to the political party by the union.

6. Is it possible for a union to purchase a table at a fundraising event?

NO. If the purpose of the event is to raise money for a political party or candidate and the other participants in the event will receive a tax credit for a contribution, the union cannot purchase a table for such a purpose. In addition, a union may not sponsor events of any political party.

7. Can my local, region, component, council, or committee work with other organizations who have separately registered as third parties work together to promote a party or their issues to non-members?



It's complicated. If a third-party makes a financial contribution or a donation of goods or services to another third-party, it counts as a campaign expenditure. If that contribution or donation serves to subvert the expenditure limits of the other third-party, it is illegal and considered collusion.

8. Can PSAC members volunteer to help with PSAC's election efforts?

YES! Individuals are free to donate their free time to PSAC's mobilization or other election activities.

9. Can members of a local, component or region volunteer to help a political candidate or party?

YES! Members are free to use their free time to help elect candidates or the party of their choice. They cannot be paid or directed to do so by PSAC or any part of the union. PSAC also cannot organize the activity **with the** political candidate or party. They can be individual volunteers, using materials provided by the candidate's campaign. They cannot use PSAC to create materials or send messages if their activities are being directed by the campaign.

10. Can my local, component, region, council or committee spend money on things like leaflets and deliver them door-to-door?

YES but...this counts as advertising if it is distributed to any non-members. The act of going door-to-door is only regulated if it is used to identify a specific candidate or party or issue BUT the leaflet that you distribute, and the cost of producing and printing it is regulated as advertising and must be authorized and accounted for. The staff time coordinating a door-to-door canvass also must be counted. Because there are strict spending limits for riding, no expenses must be incurred unless they are part of a previously approved plan.

11. Can my local, component, region, council or committee hold an all-candidate debate or forum?

Yes. The event is not regulated **IF:**

- you invite two or more candidates/parties;
- you do not endorse or promote one or more candidates or parties; and
- the event is a true debate.

12. Our local, regional council, area council, equity committee is meeting during the election period. Can we invite a candidate to speak?

Yes, BUT the rules are complicated here. Please be in touch with us at RapportElectionReporting@psc-afpc.com to discuss the specific circumstances **BEFORE** the event takes place.