

Sir or Ma'am,

Election Day is tomorrow. If you haven't already, please make time to participate in the democratic process by voting for your favorite candidates!

When you do vote, remember these "Dos and Don'ts" that apply to Airmen when in uniform and/or on duty:

-As a general rule, avoid any activities that could imply government endorsement or opposition of partisan politics

-If you vote in uniform, please do not participate in any media coverage. If approached by the media, here are some suggestions on what you can say: "As an Airman it would not be proper for me to comment on partisan political issues" or "I can't comment on the election because the Hatch Act* prohibits military members from discussing partisan political issues in uniform."

The Hatch Act is a federal law passed in 1939 that limits certain political activities of federal employees

-A member of the Armed Forces on active duty may register, vote, and express a personal opinion on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces. Promote and encourage others to exercise their voting franchise, if such promotion does not constitute use of their official authority or influence to interfere with the outcome of any election. (DoDD 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces, 4.1.1)

-A member of the Armed Forces on active duty shall not: Participate in any radio, television, or other program or group discussion as an advocate for or against a partisan political party, candidate, or cause. Civilian and military personnel may generally express their personal views on public issues or political candidates via social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, or personal blogs, much the same as they would be permitted to write a letter to the editor of a newspaper. If, when expressing a personal opinion, personnel are identified by a social media site as DoD employees, the posting must clearly and prominently state that the views expressed are those of the individual only and not of the Department of Defense. (DoDD 1344.10, 4.1.2)

More information can be found in the following documents:

-DoD Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces

<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/134410p.pdf>

-Guidance on Political Activity and DoD Support 2016

http://www.dod.mil/dodgc/defense_ethics/resource_library/elections_guidance_2016.pdf

HQ Individual Reservist Readiness and Integration Organization

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