

# JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY

## Student Political and Campaign Activities Policy

### Introduction

Students of John Carroll University are encouraged to be civically engaged in the political process, both individually and collectively. It is important, however, that they understand and make clear that they are not speaking for or in the name of John Carroll University.

John Carroll University is a private non-profit educational institution governed by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, which prohibits "participation in, or intervention in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office." John Carroll University neither devotes resources nor urges others to conduct lobbying activities on its behalf that would violate guidelines established by the Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Department of Education or other state or federal governmental entities. Within these restrictions, John Carroll University provides an academic environment which encourages civic discourse in order to enrich and invigorate the educational experience for all members of the campus community.

### General Guidelines

These guidelines apply to all on-campus political activities conducted by John Carroll students or sponsored by a John Carroll University student organization. (A separate [JCU Political Campaign Activity Policy](#) is applicable to non-student political activity by faculty, staff or others.)

All political events sponsored by student organizations must be conducted in coordination with and approved by the Office of Student Engagement. Applications for such events must be submitted through the online event reservation system at least one week before the date of the event.

Any time an elected official, candidate for public office, or campaign-related speaker is permitted to speak at an event, debate or meeting of a student organization, the following must be read aloud at the start and conclusion of the event: *"The views expressed here today are those solely of the speaker and not of John Carroll University. The use of John Carroll's facilities does not constitute an endorsement of any political candidate or of the views expressed. No fundraising is permitted at this event."*

### Political Forums or Debates

Tax-exempt organizations are permitted to sponsor political forums or debates provided they are sufficiently non-partisan in nature and are conducted for the purpose of educating voters. Where recognized student organizations sponsor political forums or debates, or when University facilities are used to hold such an event, the following guidelines apply:

- All prospective candidates representing all political parties must be invited to the forum or debate with reasonable advanced notice, so that all candidates are given a meaningful opportunity to attend.
- The agenda for the forum or debate should address issues of significant interest to members of the University community.
- A non-partisan individual should serve as moderator and ensure that all ground rules are followed.
- Participants should be allotted equal time in which to present their views and ideas.
- A statement is read aloud at the start and conclusion of the event indicating that the views expressed are those of the speaker and not of John Carroll University. (See statement text in General Guidelines, above).

## Political Candidates and Campaigns

For events involving political candidates and campaigning on campus the following guidelines apply:

- These activities may be carried out by student organizations or groups of like-minded students; however, participation in such campaign events must be restricted *exclusively* to currently enrolled students and must comply with existing university policies (e.g. chalking policy, marketing policy, protest policy etc.).
- Students must coordinate with the Office of Student Engagement to host a table in the Student Center Atrium to educate students on issues.
- While the University recognizes that campaigns are often emotionally charged and divisive, campaign events must comport to the standards of behavior that students are held to under the community standards manual and other applicable University policies.
- All political events or appearances sponsored by student organizations must be planned in coordination with the Office of Student Engagement. Applications for such events must be submitted through the online event registration system at least one week before the date of the event.
- Any appearance by a candidate for political office or public official must be solely for the purposes of giving an educational or informational talk in an area of expertise or on a topic in which they have substantial experience (e.g. a career political operative could give a talk on polling data and campaign strategy). Any such appearance will be treated as a political event for the purposes of this policy and must be scheduled accordingly.
- John Carroll University prohibits the use of University facilities for political rallies, campaign gatherings, or other partisan campaign events, including any and all related fundraising activities.
- Endorsement of a particular candidate by a university-recognized student organization is not permissible.
- The University will not sponsor any student organization designed to support a particular election issue or campaign.

## Voter Registration and “Get Out the Vote” activities

- Voter registration and “Get Out the Vote” activities on campus can be conducted only by university departments or university-recognized student organizations. This includes having voter registration forms available and/or soliciting or encouraging people to fill out voter registration forms. Such voter registration activities must be conducted directly by a university department or university-recognized student organization, and may not be conducted by or involve non-JCU organizations or individuals.
- Voter registration and “Get Out the Vote” activities conducted by student organizations must be coordinated with and approved by the Office of Student Engagement.
- All voter registration and “Get Out the Vote” activities must be conducted in a non-partisan manner. No reference to a candidate or political party may be made by the individuals staffing the booth or in the materials available at the booth., except for text on official voter registration forms.

\*\*Please note that this policy applies only to JCU students and university-recognized student organizations. Faculty, staff, and others should refer to the University Political Campaign Activity Policy that is applicable to non-students.