

# Cincinnati Federation of Teachers

## Cincinnati Federation of Office Professionals



Local 1520 | AFT | OFT | AFL-CIO

2055 Reading Rd., Suite 120 | Cincinnati, OH 45202

Phone: 513.961.2272 | Fax: 513.961.0629

[www.cft-aft.org](http://www.cft-aft.org)

### DO's and DON'Ts of Teacher and Staff Political Activity

It's election season. This year Cincinnati voters will elect members of the Cincinnati Board of Education, vote on a school levy, and other local candidates and issues. CPS teachers and staff are citizens too. While there are restrictions on in-school political activity under the so called COAST Agreement described in a recent email to CPS staff, you still have many 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights to participate in the political process. Here are the things you can and cannot do this election year:

#### DON'T

- 1. Political Signs** – Do not post signs supporting or opposing issues or candidates *on school grounds*.
- 2. Campaigning on School Property**- do not engage in political activity supporting or opposing candidates, levies or issues involving students, parents or colleagues during school hours and/or on school property. (See exception below re: chapter meetings teacher mailboxes and CFT bulletin boards).
- 3. CPS Email or Devices**- Do not use CPS email accounts or electronic systems or devices to engage in campaigning for or against any candidates, issues or levies.
- 4. Distributing Signs or Political Materials**- Do not distribute political leaflets or signs from school property (See exception below for CFT Chapter Meetings, bulletin boards and teacher mailboxes).