

PINE BLUFF POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL

	SUBJECT:	POLICY NUMBER 1101
	POLITICAL ACTIVITY	ISSUE DATE 02/19/2008
	CHAPTER: ETHICS	EFFECTIVE DATE 02/19/2008
	ISSUED By: Chief of Police John E. Howell	TOTAL PAGES 2

I. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy is to define the boundaries set in regards to political activities as well as the consequences of their violation.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of this department to allow employee's to exercise their rights as provided for in the Constitution of the United States in regards to political activities as circumscribed for public servants by Arkansas State Law and the Pine Bluff Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

III. PROCEDURES

A. ARKANSAS STATUTE § 7-1-103 TITLED MISCELLANEOUS MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES – PENALTIES STATES IN PART:

1. It shall be unlawful for any public servant to devote any time or labor during usual office hours toward the campaign of any other candidate for office or for the nomination to any office; and
2. It shall be unlawful for any public servant to circulate an initiative or referendum petition or to solicit signatures on an initiative or referendum petition in any public office of the state, county, or municipal governments of Arkansas or during the usual office hours or while on duty for any state agency or any county or municipal government in Arkansas; and
3. It shall be unlawful for any public servant to use any office or room furnished at public expense to distribute any letters, circulars, or other campaign materials unless such office or room is regularly used by members of the public for such purposes without regard to political affiliation.

4. It shall further be unlawful for any public servant to use for campaign purposes any item of personal property provided with public funds; and
5. If any person is convicted under the provisions of this section while employed by any of the departments of this state, he shall be removed from employment immediately.

B. SECTION 3 PINE BLUFF CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS TITLED POLITICAL ACTIVITY STATES:

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, law enforcement officers shall not be prohibited from engaging in political activities except when on duty, when in uniform, or when acting in an official capacity, nor shall they be denied the right to refrain from engaging in political activities. A.C.A. 14-52-109.

C. RECOMMENDATION.

Read the referenced edicts and become thoroughly familiar with them to understand the boundaries set in regards to political activities.

D. DEPARTMENTAL PERSPECTIVE.

1. Any one intending to involve themselves in a political campaign or in any way publicly endorse any candidate for office or for the nomination to any office may seek clarification of the limitations for participation through the Office of the Chief of Police prior to such participation.
2. Violation of this Order shall be deemed a cardinal offense and punishable as provided by in Arkansas State Law, Civil Service Regulations and the Pine Bluff Police Department's policies and procedures.