

NORTH DAKOTA CAMPAIGN PRACTICES GUIDE

2026 ELECTION CYCLE



NORTH DAKOTA
SECRETARY  **OF STATE**

2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
WHO IS A CANDIDATE?.....	4
WHAT IS A POLITICAL PURPOSE?	4
Activities Not Considered a Political Purpose	4
CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING	5
All Candidates Are Required To File Campaign Finance Reports	5
State, Legislative & Judicial	5
Local Government – Political Subdivisions.....	5
Campaign Finance Filing Schedule	5
An EIN May Be Required For Campaign Purposes	6
Separation Of Campaign Funds	6
Who Can Donate To A Candidate	6
What Does A Candidate Report For Campaign Finance.....	6
Can I Accept “Pass The Hat” Donations?	7
CAMPAIGN ADVERTISING	7
Paid For by Disclaimers.....	7
Use of the State Seal.....	7
CAMPAIGNING AND THE LAW	8
CAMPAIGN SIGNAGE.....	9

CAMPAIGN QUESTIONS.....	10
What Is Electioneering?	10
Can I Get a List of People Who Voted In My District In The Last Election?	10
Can I Vote In Person On Election Day?	10
Can I Interview With The Media On Election Day?	10
Can I Encourage People To Vote For Me Outside A Polling Location?	10
Can I Wear Items To Promote My Candidate To The Polling Place?.....	10
CAMPAIGN RELATED STATUTES.....	11
CHAPTER 16.1-10 – CORRUPT PRACTICES.....	11
16.1-10-01. Corrupt practice - What constitutes.....	11
16.1-10-02. Use of state or political subdivision services or property for political purposes.....	11
16.1-10-03. Political badge, button, or insignia at elections.	12
16.1-10-04. Publication of false information in political advertisements - Penalty.....	12
16.1-10-04.1. Certain political advertisements to disclose name of sponsor – Name disclosure requirements.	12
16.1-10-04.2. Use of artificial intelligence - Disclosure - Exception - Definition.	13
16.1-10-05. Paying owner, editor, publisher, or agent of newspaper to advocate or oppose candidate editorially prohibited.....	13
16.1-10-06. Electioneering within boundary of an open polling place.	13
16.1-10-06.1. Paying for certain election-related activities prohibited.	13
16.1-10-06.2. Sale or distribution at polling place.....	14
16.1-10-07. Candidate guilty of corrupt practice to vacate nomination of office.....	14
16.1-10-08. Penalty for violation of chapter.....	14
CHAPTER 12.1-14 – OFFICIAL OPPRESSION-ELECTIONS-CIVIL RIGHTS.....	14
CHAPTER 24-17 - ADVERTISING ADJACENT TO HIGHWAYS.....	16
CHAPTER 39-01 – DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS	17
CHAPTER 44-08 – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS	18
CHAPTER 54-02 – STATE EMBLEMS, SYMBOLS, AND AWARDS	18
ADVERTISING UNDER THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION ACT.....	19

FOREWORD

This guide is intended to aid individuals running for an elected office in their campaign practices. It provides an understanding of North Dakota statutes, best practices and requirements of those seeking office related to campaign practices, as well as guidance on campaign finance and statement of interests disclosures that may be required.

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DISCLAIMER

This guide is not intended to provide legal advice and should not be used as a substitute for such.

The following excerpts and summaries of North Dakota law are taken or derived from the NDCC and pertain to campaign practices and candidate requirements. Although every attempt has been made for accuracy, the reprint, summarizations, or paraphrasing of these laws does not carry the same authority as the actual NDCC and should not be equated with the official NDCC. This compilation is intended as a helpful resource and reference for consolidated election related laws. For official and legal purposes, the official NDCC should be used.

INTRODUCTION

The Campaign Practices Guide provides candidates, committees, political groups, media and voters with an overview of best practices, restrictions, and the North Dakota laws governing campaigns and campaign practices.

WHO IS A CANDIDATE?

North Dakota law defines a candidate as: [NDCC § 16.1-01-00.1](#)

- An individual holding public office.
- An individual who publicly has declared that individual's candidacy for nomination for election or election to public office or has filed or accepted a nomination for public office.
- An individual who has formed a campaign or other committee for that individual's candidacy for public office.
- An individual who has circulated a nominating petition to have that individual's name placed on the ballot.
- An individual who, in any manner, solicited or received a contribution for that individual's candidacy for public office, whether before or after the election for that office.

Information on requirements and what is needed to file as a candidate can be found on the Office of the Secretary of State website at: [SOS.nd.gov/elections/candidate/become-candidate](https://sos.nd.gov/elections/candidate/become-candidate)

WHAT IS A POLITICAL PURPOSE?

North Dakota law defines political purpose in the corrupt practices act as any activity in support or opposition to a: [NDCC § 16.1-10](#)

- Statewide initiated or referred measure, constitutional amendment or measure, or political subdivision ballot measure.
- Election or nomination of a candidate to public office and include using "vote for," or "oppose," or any similar language in support or opposition in any advertisement brought by a candidate, committee, political party, or an individual.
- Any activity in which a candidates' name, office, district, or any term such as "incumbent" or "challenger" is used to support or oppose the election or nomination of a candidate prior to a Primary (30 days prior) or General Election (60 days prior).

ACTIVITIES NOT CONSIDERED A POLITICAL PURPOSE

- Factual information may be presented regarding a ballot measure for the purpose of educating voters if the information does not advocate for or against the measure or reflect a position on the adoption or rejection of the measure.
- Does not apply to activities done in the performance of a public office or a position taken in a news story, commentary or editorial.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING

ALL CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO FILE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS

STATE, LEGISLATIVE & JUDICIAL

State, legislative and judicial candidates and candidate committees must register a campaign finance account with the Office of the Secretary of State within 15 days of accepting a contribution or declaring candidacy. [NDCC §16.1-08.1-03.2.](#)

- Candidates and/or committees who file with the Office of the Secretary of State should visit CFRS.sos.nd.gov and use the **Public Login** to sign in and create a profile.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT – POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

Candidates for local government elected offices – county, city, school board, park district – do not need to register but do have candidacy filing and campaign finance reporting requirements with their local filing officer. Local government candidates must:

- File candidacy with their filing officer by the candidacy filing deadline – 4 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2026.
- File campaign finance reports with their filing officer according to the filing dates shared in the [Campaign Finance Filing Schedule](#).

Local Government Office Sought	Filing Officer
County	County Auditor
City – Population greater than 5,000	City Auditor
School Board – Enrollment greater than 1,000	School Business Manager
Park Board – Population greater than 5,000	City Auditor

CAMPAIGN FINANCE FILING SCHEDULE

During an election year, candidates and committees are required to file a campaign finance report prior to each election. Campaign finance requirements for candidates and candidate committees is found in [NDCC § 16.1-08.1-02.3](#). Candidates who do not proceed to the General Election do have a campaign finance reporting requirement until they have a zero balance in their campaign account, and are required to file a Year-End report in the year in which they were on the ballot.

Statement	Period	Earliest Day to File	Last Day to File
Pre-Primary	January 1 through April 30	Friday, May 1, 2026	Friday, May 8, 2026
Pre-General	January 1 through September 24	Friday, September 25, 2026	Friday, October 2, 2026
Year-End	January 1 through December 31	Friday, January 1, 2027	Sunday, January 31, 2027
48-Hour (If Applicable)	Only filed if a contribution is received in excess of \$500 beginning 39 days prior to the election through the day before election day – Primary, General or Special		

AN EIN MAY BE REQUIRED FOR CAMPAIGN PURPOSES

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) may require an EIN (Employer Identification Number) for campaign purposes, even if you have no employees. Campaign committees for candidates for federal, state or local office, and political action committees are all political organizations subject to tax under IRC section 527 of IRS code. Candidates should review filing requirements for political organizations at www.irs.gov.



SEPARATION OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS

Candidates must establish dedicated campaign accounts that are separate from any personal account under [NDCC § 16.1-08.1-02.3](#). This is to ensure accurate reporting and to avoid mingling of campaign and personal funds.

WHO CAN DONATE TO A CANDIDATE

North Dakota law states that candidates can take donations from certain groups and not from others.

CAN RECEIVE DONATIONS FROM	NO DONATIONS FROM
Individuals	Corporations
Political Committees	Businesses
Candidates	LLCs
Political Parties	Foreign Nationals



Corporations, businesses, and LLCs can establish political action committees or PACs in order to give contributions to candidates. As an example:

- *MDU Resources Group* cannot make a donation to your campaign.
- *MDU Resource Group Good Government Fund (PAC)* can make a donation to your campaign.

WHAT DOES A CANDIDATE REPORT FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Candidates and candidate committees have specific filing requirements under [NDCC § 16.1-08.1-02.3](#) and must report the following information:

- *Statewide Candidates and Statewide Candidate Committees Only* – Provide a beginning and ending balance for each reporting period.
- Itemize contributions over \$200.
- Report contributions of \$200 or less in a lump sum.
- Contributions greater than \$5,000 include employer information for the individual contributing.
- 48-hour reporting for all contributions received greater than \$500 from 39 days before the election through election day.
- Report expenditures in lump-sums only at year-end in the following categories: advertising, campaign loan repayment, travel, operations, miscellaneous.
- Cannot accept money from businesses, organizations, independent expenditure committees.

CAN I ACCEPT “PASS THE HAT” DONATIONS?

Pass the hat donations are not allowed. North Dakota requires that candidates know from whom they are receiving a contribution. “Pass the Hat” donations are not trackable as it is unknown who gave the money received.

CAMPAIGN ADVERTISING

PAID FOR BY DISCLAIMERS

Political advertisements in any form require a disclaimer informing voters who paid for the advertisement. [NDCC § 16.1-10-04.1](#) Advertisements include any public medium by which an individual or group is supporting or opposing a candidate or measure – examples include: signs, flyers, brochures, newspaper ads, posters, billboards, display cards, websites, social media, and other public means of promotion.

The disclaimer must provide details regarding the entity or individual responsible for funding the creation or placement of the advertisement. All campaign advertisements are required to include a written or verbal "paid for by" statement, disclosing the sponsor. Below are a few examples of how to properly use a disclaimer for this purpose.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY – PAID FOR BY	DISCLAIMER EXAMPLE
Individual Person	Paid for by Jane Doe
Candidate	Paid for by John Smith – OR – Paid for by Candidate
Group of Candidates	Paid for by Jane Doe, John Smith, John Doe – OR – Paid for by Candidates
State Political Party	Paid for by the North Dakota Democratic – NPL Party, John Doe, Chairman
District Political Party	Paid for by District 35 Republican Party, Jane Doe, Chairman
Candidate Committee	Paid for by Doe for North Dakota, John Smith, Treasurer
Committee – Citizen’s Group	Paid for by Citizens for Good Choices, John Smith, Treasurer
Association	Paid for by North Dakota Public Employees Association, Jane Doe, Director

USE OF THE STATE SEAL

The state seal cannot be used in campaign materials. The use of the Great Seal is prohibited for political or campaign purposes and is limited to state government and educational use. Anyone wishing to use the Great Seal must request permission from the Secretary of State. Each request is evaluated to determine if it meets guidelines.



Using the Great Seal is like having a stamp of state endorsement, which is why use of it is not allowed for political purposes. For information permitted uses of the Great Seal, please refer to [NDCC § 54-02-01](#).

CAMPAIGNING AND THE LAW

North Dakota law provides restrictions on what can or cannot be done as a campaign practice. The following are a few of the most common areas where mistakes can occur.

THE FOLLOWING CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ARE NOT ALLOWED UNDER NDCC CHAPTER 16.1-10 – CORRUPT PRACTICES	STATUTE REFERENCE
<p>Use of governmental services or property for political purposes is prohibited. This includes computers, phones, vehicles, postage, etc. If a government building is available for lease or rental as permitted by state law, it may be used by a candidate or organization for a political meeting. Example: Renting a Bismarck State College meeting room.</p>	<p>NDCC § 16.1-10-02</p>
<p>Government employees may not work on campaigns during regular working hours. Government employees must be outside of work hours, or using annual leave to assist with campaign efforts, including signing or soliciting petitions.</p>	<p>NDCC § 16.1-10-02</p>
<p>You cannot give, sell, or wear political badges, buttons, or insignia on Election Day. If you wear or bring anything with a political advertisement on it to a polling location, you will be asked to remove the item by election officials.</p>	<p>NDCC § 16.1-10-03</p>
<p>Political advertisements in any form require a disclaimer informing voters who paid for the advertisement.</p>	<p>NDCC § 16.1-10-04.1</p>
<p>Any advertising in support or opposition of a candidate using artificial intelligence to impersonate a human’s voice or appearance must include a disclaimer. The disclaimer required is: “THIS CONTENT GENERATED BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.”</p>	<p>NDCC § 16.1-10-04.2</p>
<p>Electioneering may not occur within 100 feet of the entrance of a polling location when voting is occurring. Electioneering consists of any form of campaigning, including displaying signs, distributing campaign literature, or wearing/bringing items with campaign promotions.</p>	<p>NDCC § 16.1-10-06</p>
<p>You may not pay another person for loss or damage due to voting attendance, expense of transporting to or from the polls, personal services affecting the result of a caucus or election.</p>	<p>NDCC § 16.1-10-06.1</p>
<p>You may not serve on an election board or have a relative serve when you are a candidate on the ballot.</p>	<p>NDCC § 16.1-05-02</p>
<p>You may not give anything of value, including alcoholic beverages, in return for a promise to vote or withhold a vote.</p>	<p>NDCC § 12.1-14-03</p>

CAMPAIGN SIGNAGE

Candidates should be aware of laws governing campaign sign placement both at the federal, state and local level. Keep in mind the following when placing campaign signs in North Dakota.

SIGNAGE PRACTICE	REFERENCE
<p>SIGNAGE ALONG INTERSTATE OR PRIMARY HIGHWAYS Political advertising is controlled by the Federal Highway Beautification Act which prohibits such advertising on or adjacent to, the highway right-of-way, either on the interstate or primary highway systems. Such zoning may be permitted only in commercial or industrial zoned areas. Candidates should obtain permits for signs which are in conforming areas.</p>	<p>For more information: North Dakota Department of Transportation Phone: 701-328-2500 www.dot.nd.gov</p>
<p>SIGNAGE ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS Outdoor political signs temporarily installed on private property are allowed in the restricted area within 660 feet from the nearest edge of the right-of-way, as long as they do not include any form of commercial advertising.</p>	<p>NDCC § 24-17-03</p>
<p>SIGNAGE IN BOULEVARDS – PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY Placement of political signage in boulevards or the public right-of-way is prohibited in some areas. Candidates should check both local county and city ordinances to determine what is acceptable in their community.</p>	<p>Check local ordinances.</p>
<p>SIGNAGE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY Placement of signs on private property should be done only with the owner’s permission. HOAs or Home Owner Associations may have specific rules regarding political signs.</p>	<p>Get owner’s permission.</p>
<p>SIGNAGE ON ELECTION DAY – DO I NEED TO REMOVE? Signage does not need to be removed prior to election day. Signage must not violate electioneering laws (campaigning on election day – no activity within 100 feet of an open polling location) or local ordinances. Also, polling locations like churches or buildings owned by nonprofits cannot have political signs on their property due to IRS restrictions on 501(c)4 organizations.</p>	<p>NDCC § 16.1-10-06 Check local ordinances.</p>

WHAT IS ELECTIONEERING?

Electioneering is any activity that could be seen as campaigning on Election Day. Laws that prohibit electioneering activities can be found in [NDCC § 16.1-10-06](#).

CAN I GET A LIST OF PEOPLE WHO VOTED IN MY DISTRICT IN THE LAST ELECTION?

Candidates can request a voter list from the Office of the Secretary of State for election-related purposes only. Voter lists are protected and are not to be shared. Voter lists include the voter's name, address, voting precinct, and whether they have voted in the last 4 years. The cost for a voter list is \$40 per county.

CAN I VOTE IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY?

Candidates have the option of voting in whatever way is most convenient for them – early voting (if available in your jurisdiction), absentee, or on election day.

CAN I INTERVIEW WITH THE MEDIA ON ELECTION DAY?

Candidates can interview with the media on Election Day as long as it takes place greater than 100 feet from a polling location.

CAN I ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO VOTE FOR ME OUTSIDE A POLLING LOCATION?

Individuals may not attempt to persuade any voter for or against a candidate, political party or ballot issue within 100 feet of a polling place while open for voting. This is considered electioneering. [NDCC § 16.1-10-06](#).

CAN I WEAR ITEMS TO PROMOTE MY CANDIDATE TO THE POLLING PLACE?

Political badges, buttons, insignias on hats or shirts or mugs, or other items may not be worn or brought within 100 feet from the entrance of a polling place or in the polling place while it is open for voting. This is considered electioneering. [NDCC § 16.1-10-03](#).

CHAPTER 16.1-10 – CORRUPT PRACTICES

16.1-10-01. CORRUPT PRACTICE - WHAT CONSTITUTES.

A person is guilty of corrupt practice within the meaning of this chapter if the person willfully engages in any of the following:

1. Expends any money for election purposes contrary to the provisions of this chapter.
2. Engages in any of the practices prohibited by section 12.1-14-02 or 12.1-14-03.
3. Is guilty of the use of state services or property or the services or property of a political subdivision of the state for political purposes.

16.1-10-02. USE OF STATE OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SERVICES OR PROPERTY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

1. No person may use any property belonging to or leased by, or any service which is provided to or carried on by, either directly or by contract, the state or any agency, department, bureau, board, commission, or political subdivision thereof, for any political purpose.
2. The following definitions must be used for the purposes of this section:
 - a. "Political purpose" means any activity undertaken in support of or in opposition to a statewide initiated or referred measure, a constitutional amendment or measure, a political subdivision ballot measure, or the election or nomination of a candidate to public office and includes using "vote for", "oppose", or any similar support or opposition language in any advertisement whether the activity is undertaken by a candidate, a political committee, a political party, or any person. In the period thirty days before a primary election and sixty days before a special or general election, "political purpose" also means any activity in which a candidate's name, office, district, or any term meaning the same as "incumbent" or "challenger" is used in support of or in opposition to the election or nomination of a candidate to public office. The term does not include activities undertaken in the performance of public office or a position taken in any bona fide news story, commentary, or editorial. Factual information may be presented regarding a ballot question solely for the purpose of educating voters if the information does not advocate for or against or otherwise reflect a position on the adoption or rejection of the ballot question.
 - b. "Property" includes motor vehicles, telephones, typewriters, adding machines, postage or postage meters, funds of money, and buildings. However, nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit any candidate, political party, committee, or organization from using any public building for such political meetings as may be required by law, or to prohibit such candidate, party, committee, or organization from hiring the use of any public building for any political purpose if such lease or hiring is otherwise permitted by law.
 - c. "Services" includes the use of employees during regular working hours for which such employees have not taken annual or sick leave or other compensatory leave.

16.1-10-03. POLITICAL BADGE, BUTTON, OR INSIGNIA AT ELECTIONS.

No individual may buy, sell, give, or provide any political badge, button, or any insignia within a polling place or within one hundred feet [30.48 meters] from the entrance to the room containing the polling place while it is open for voting. No such political badge, button, or insignia may be worn within that same area while a polling place is open for voting.

16.1-10-04. PUBLICATION OF FALSE INFORMATION IN POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS - PENALTY.

1. A person is guilty of a class A misdemeanor if the person knowingly, or with reckless disregard for its truth or falsity, publishes a political advertisement or news release containing an assertion, representation, or statement of fact, including information concerning a candidate's prior public record, which is untrue, deceptive, or misleading, on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office, initiated measure, referred measure, constitutional amendment, or any other issue, question, or proposal on an election ballot, which is published by radio, television, newspaper, text message, telephone call, pamphlet, folder, display cards, signs, posters, billboard advertisements, websites, electronic transmission, social media, or any other public means or commercial medium.
2. This section does not apply to a newspaper, television or radio station, or other commercial medium that is not the source of the political advertisement or news release.

16.1-10-04.1. CERTAIN POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS TO DISCLOSE NAME OF SPONSOR – NAME DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

Every political advertisement by newspaper, pamphlet or folder, display card, sign, poster, or billboard, website, or by any other similar public means, on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office, designed to assist, injure, or defeat the candidate by reflecting upon the candidate's personal character or political action, or by a measure committee as described in section 16.1-08.1-01, or a corporation making an independent expenditure either for or against a measure, must disclose on the advertisement the name of the person, as defined in section 16.1-08.1-01, or political party paying for the advertisement. If the name of a political party, association, or partnership is used, the disclaimer must also include the name of the chairman or other responsible individual from the political party, association, or partnership. The name of the person paying for any radio or television broadcast containing any advertising announcement for or against any candidate for public office must be announced at the close of the broadcast. If the name of a political party, association, or partnership is used, the disclaimer must also include the name of the chairman or other responsible individual from the political party, association, or partnership. In every political advertisement in which the name of the person paying for the advertisement is disclosed, the first and last name of any named individual must be disclosed. An advertisement paid for by an individual candidate or group of candidates must disclose that the advertisement was paid for by the individual candidate or group of candidates. The first and last name or names of the candidates paying for the advertisement are not required to be disclosed. This section does not apply to campaign buttons.

16.1-10-04.2. USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - DISCLOSURE - EXCEPTION - DEFINITION.

1. Any action taken for a political purpose, including communication and political advertising in support of or opposition to a candidate, political committee, or a political party, or for the purpose of promoting passage or defeat of initiated or referred measures or petitions, containing images, graphics, videos, audio, text, or other digital content created in whole or in part with the use of artificial intelligence to visually or audibly impersonate a human, prominently must state the following disclaimer: "THIS CONTENT GENERATED BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE."
2. This section does not apply to content solely using artificial intelligence for text generation, grammar correction, spelling checks, stylistic editing, or enhancing existing content without creating a new impersonation of human likeness or voice.
3. For purposes of this section, "artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system capable of creating images, graphics, videos, audio, text, and other digital content based on human-defined objectives or data patterns. The term does not include systems that are explicitly programmed with rules or tools solely designed to assist with grammar, spelling, or word suggestions without generating human likeness or voice.

16.1-10-05. PAYING OWNER, EDITOR, PUBLISHER, OR AGENT OF NEWSPAPER TO ADVOCATE OR OPPOSE CANDIDATE EDITORIALY PROHIBITED.

No person may pay or give anything of value to the owner, editor, publisher, or agent of any newspaper or other periodical, or radio or television station, to induce the person to advocate editorially or to oppose any candidate for nomination or election, and no such owner, editor, publisher, or agent may accept such inducement.

16.1-10-06. ELECTIONEERING WITHIN BOUNDARY OF AN OPEN POLLING PLACE.

1. An individual may not ask, solicit, or in any manner try to induce or persuade, any voter within a polling place or within one hundred feet [30.48 meters] from the entrance to the room containing a polling place while it is open for voting to vote or refrain from voting for any candidate or the candidates or ticket of any political party or organization, or any measure submitted to the people. The display upon motor vehicles of adhesive signs which are not readily removable and which promote the candidacy of any individual, any political party, or a vote upon any measure, and political advertisements promoting the candidacy of any individual, political party, or a vote upon any measure which are displayed on fixed permanent billboards, may not, however, be deemed a violation of this section.
2. A vehicle or movable sign of any type containing a political message as described in subsection 1 may be allowed to remain within the restricted area only for the period of time necessary for the owner or operator of the vehicle or sign to complete the act of voting.
3. Except as provided in subsection 1, a sign placed on private property which displays a political message may not be restricted by a political subdivision, including a home rule city or county, unless the political subdivision demonstrates a burden to the public safety.

16.1-10-06.1. PAYING FOR CERTAIN ELECTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED.

No person may pay any individual for:

1. Any loss or damage due to attendance at the polls;
2. Registering;
3. The expense of transportation to or from the polls; or
4. Personal services to be performed on the day of a caucus, primary election, or any election which tend in any way, directly or indirectly, to affect the result of such caucus or election.

16.1-10-06.2. SALE OR DISTRIBUTION AT POLLING PLACE.

A person may not approach a person attempting to enter a polling place, or who is in a polling place, for the purpose of selling, soliciting for sale, advertising for sale, or distributing any merchandise, product, literature, or service. A person may not approach a person attempting to enter a polling place, who is in a polling place, or who is leaving a polling place for the purpose of gathering signatures for any reason. These prohibitions apply in any polling place or within one hundred feet [30.48 meters] from any entrance leading into a polling place while it is open for voting.

16.1-10-07. CANDIDATE GUILTY OF CORRUPT PRACTICE TO VACATE NOMINATION OF OFFICE.

If any individual is found guilty of any corrupt practice, the individual must be punished by being deprived of the individual's government job, or the individual's nomination or election must be declared void, as the case may be. This section does not remove from office an individual who is already in office and who has entered upon the discharge of the individual's duties when the office is subject to the impeachment provisions of the Constitution of North Dakota.

16.1-10-08. PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF CHAPTER.

Any person violating any provision of this chapter, for which another penalty is not specifically provided, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

CHAPTER 12.1-14 – OFFICIAL OPPRESSION-ELECTIONS-CIVIL RIGHTS

12.1-14-01. OFFICIAL OPPRESSION

A person acting or purporting to act in an official capacity or taking advantage of such actual or purported capacity is guilty of a class A misdemeanor if, knowing that his conduct is illegal, he:

1. Subjects another to arrest, detention, search, seizure, mistreatment, dispossession, assessment, lien, or other infringement of personal or property rights; or
2. Denies or impedes another in the exercise or enjoyment of any right, privilege, power, or immunity.

12.1-14-02. Interference with elections:

A person is guilty of a class A misdemeanor if, whether or not acting under color of law, the person, by force or threat of force or by economic coercion, intentionally:

1. Injures, intimidates, or interferes with another because the other individual is or has been voting for any candidate or issue or qualifying to vote, qualifying or campaigning as a candidate for elective office, or qualifying or acting as an election official or an election observer, in any primary, special, or general election.
2. Injures, intimidates, or interferes with another in order to prevent that individual or any other individual from voting for any candidate or issue or qualifying to vote, qualifying or campaigning as a candidate for elective office, or qualifying or acting as an election official or an election observer, in any primary, special, or general election.

12.1-14-03. SAFEGUARDING ELECTIONS

A person is guilty of a class A misdemeanor if, in connection with any election, he:

1. Makes or induces any false voting registration;
2. Offers, gives, or agrees to give a thing of pecuniary value to another as consideration for the recipient's voting or withholding his vote or voting for or against any candidate or issue or for such conduct by another
3. Solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept a thing of pecuniary value as consideration for conduct prohibited under subsection 1 or 2; or
4. Otherwise obstructs or interferes with the lawful conduct of such election or registration therefor.

As used in this section, "thing of pecuniary value" shall include alcoholic beverages, by the drink or in any other container.

12.1-14-04. DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC PLACES

A person is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if, whether or not acting under color of law, he, by force, or threat of force or by economic coercion, intentionally:

1. Injures, intimidates, or interferes with another because of his sex, race, color, religion, or national origin and because he is or has been exercising or attempting to exercise his right to full and equal enjoyment of any facility open to the public.
2. Injures, intimidates, or interferes with another because of his sex, race, color, religion, or national origin in order to intimidate him or any other person from exercising or attempting to exercise his right to full and equal enjoyment of any facility open to the public.

12.1-14-05. PREVENTING EXERCISE OF CIVIL RIGHTS – HINDERING OR PREVENTING ANOTHER AIDING THIRD PERSON TO EXERCISE CIVIL RIGHTS

A person is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if, whether or not acting under color of law, he, by force or threat of force or by economic coercion, intentionally:

1. Injures, intimidates, or interferes with another because he is or is about to exercise his civil rights, or because he has exercised his civil rights.
2. Intimidates or prevents another from aiding a third person to exercise his civil rights.

CHAPTER 24-17 - ADVERTISING ADJACENT TO HIGHWAYS

24-17-02. DEFINITIONS

1. "Commissioner" shall mean the director of the department of transportation of this state or authorized agents as provided in section 24-02-01.3.
2. "Erect" means to construct, build, raise, assemble, place, affix, attach, create, paint, draw, or in any other way bring into being or establish.
3. "Maintain" means to exist.
4. "Outdoor advertising" means a sign, display, or device of any kind or character including statuary, erected or maintained for outdoor advertising purposes, upon which any poster, bill, printing, painting, or other advertisement of any kind whatsoever may be placed for advertising purposes and shall include but not be limited to any card, cloth, paper, metal, painted, or wooden sign of any character placed for outdoor advertising purposes, on or affixed to the ground or any tree, wall, bush, rock, fence, building, structure, or thing, either privately or publicly owned. The terms "sign, display, or device" comprehend all forms of outdoor advertising and the use of one such term in this chapter includes all forms of outdoor advertising.
5. "Political sign" means a temporary sign erected on private property, which includes signs which solicit votes or support for, or in opposition to, any candidate or any political party under whose designation any candidate is seeking nomination or election. Political signs may also contain messages concerning any public question on the ballot in an election held under the laws of the state. Political signs do not include signs which have been issued a legal billboard permit by a city, county, or the state of North Dakota.
6. "State highway system" shall mean the state highway system as defined in subsection 45 of section 24-01-01.1.

24-17-03. OUTDOOR ADVERTISING DISTANCE LIMITATIONS

Subject to this chapter, after January 1, 1968, or any later date established by the Congress of the United States in relation to 23 U.S.C. 131, or waiver of that date pursuant to title 23 of the United States Code, no sign may be erected or maintained within six hundred sixty feet [201.17 meters] from the nearest edge of the right of way and visible from the main traveled way of any highway that is a part of the state highway system in this state except the following:

1. Official signs and notices and directional signs and notices, including signs and notices pertaining to natural wonders, scenic and historic attractions, and outdoor recreational areas subject to the national standards to be promulgated by the secretary of transportation.
2. Signs advertising the sale or lease of property upon which they are located.
3. Signs specifically advertising activities conducted, services rendered, goods sold, stored, produced, or mined, or the name of the enterprise that is located on property used for the purpose advertised or on property contiguous to the advertised activity which is under the same ownership, lease, rent, or control as the property with the advertised activity.
4. Signs in unzoned commercial or industrial areas, which now or hereafter qualify as such, pursuant to the agreement between the director and the secretary of transportation according to 23 U.S.C. 131.
5. Signs relocated by reason of the construction or reconstruction of the state highway system.
6. Official highway signs within interstate rights of way giving specific information for the traveling public pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 131(f) and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.
7. Signs calling attention to the location of buried utility lines.
8. Political signs temporarily installed on private property, providing the signs do not include any form of commercial advertising.

CHAPTER 39-01 – DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

39-01-03. MOTOR VEHICLE OWNED BY THE STATE OR AN INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN NOT TO BE USED FOR PRIVATE USE OR IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

No person, officer, or employee of the state or of any department, board, bureau, commission, institution, industry, or other agency of the state, or of any entity located upon the international boundary line between the United States of America and Canada used and maintained as a memorial to commemorate the long-existing relationship of peace and good will between the people and the governments of the United States of America and Canada and to further international peace among the nations of the world, may use or drive any motor vehicle belonging to the state or to any department, board, bureau, commission, institution, industry, or other agency of the state, or of any entity located upon the international boundary line between the United States of America and Canada used and maintained as a memorial to commemorate the long-existing relationship of peace and good will between the people and the governments of the United States of America and Canada and to further international peace among the nations of the world, for private use, or while engaged in any political activity.

39-01-04. POLITICAL ACTIVITY DEFINED

The term "political activity" as used in this chapter includes any form of campaigning or electioneering, such as attending or arranging for political meetings; transporting candidates or workers engaged in campaigning or electioneering; distributing campaign literature, political guide cards, or placards; soliciting or canvassing for campaign funds; transporting electors to the polls on election day; and any other form of political work usually and ordinarily engaged in by state officers and employees during primary and general election campaigns.

39-01-05. EXPENSES NOT TO BE COLLECTED BY STATE OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY

A state officer or employee who uses or drives any privately owned motor vehicle while engaged in political activity may not collect or receive from this state any expense moneys for the use or operation of the motor vehicle while engaged in the political activity. A state officer or employee may not collect or receive any traveling expense reimbursement from this state for any time spent engaging in any political activity.

39-01-06. COLLECTING OR RECEIVING EXPENSE MONEY WRONGFULLY – CIVIL ACTION FOR RECOVERY – LIABILITY OF BOND

Any officer or employee who collects or receives any expense moneys in violation of section 39-01-05 is subject to a suit for the recovery of the funds wrongfully collected or received by that person, and if that person's office or position is bonded by the state bonding fund, such fund also is liable therefor.

39-01-07. PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF CHAPTER

Any person violating any provision of this chapter for which another penalty is not specifically provided is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

CHAPTER 44-08 – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

44-08-19. Political activities by public employees prohibited while on duty – Definition: No public employee may engage in political activities while on duty or in uniform. Although nothing in this section prevents any such employee from becoming or continuing to be a member or officer of a political club or organization, from attendance at a political meeting, from contributing to or otherwise supporting candidates of the employee's choice, from enjoying entire freedom from all interference in casting a vote or favoring candidates, or from seeking or accepting election or appointment to public office, the governing body of any political subdivision may adopt appropriate ordinances prohibiting public employees from engaging in political activities while such employees are on duty or in uniform. For the purposes of this section, "political activities" means those activities defined by section 39-01-04.

CHAPTER 54-02 – STATE EMBLEMS, SYMBOLS, AND AWARDS

54-02-01. GREAT SEAL - PERMITTED USES – PENALTY FOR COMMERCIAL USE

The great seal of the state is that prescribed in section 2 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota. A description in writing of such seal must be deposited and recorded in the office of the secretary of state and must remain a public record. A reproduction of the great seal may be placed on any official form, document, or stationery of any agency, authority, board, body, branch, bureau, commission, committee, council, department, division, industry, institution, or instrumentality of the state or of any elected or appointed official of the state. A reproduction of the great seal may be placed on business calling cards produced for the use of an elected or appointed state official or state employee regardless of whether the cards are purchased by the official or employee or by the state. Any use of the great seal on any other object or thing by any of the foregoing state entities or officials is prohibited unless approved by the secretary of state; provided, however, that the state historical society and the parks and recreation department may, with the concurrence of the secretary of state, reproduce the great seal on any objects they offer for sale as souvenirs. It is a class B misdemeanor for any person to:

1. Place or cause to be placed the great seal, or any reproduction of the great seal, on any political badge, button, insignia, pamphlet, folder, display card, sign, poster, billboard, or on any other public advertisement, or to otherwise use the great seal for any political purpose, as defined in section 16.1-10-02.
2. Place or cause to be placed on the great seal, or any reproduction thereof, any advertisement.
3. Expose the great seal, or any reproduction thereof, to public view with any advertisement attached thereto.
4. Utilize the great seal, or a copy or reproduction thereof, for any commercial purpose or except as provided in subsection 1, to utilize or place a copy or reproduction of the great seal on any stationery or business calling card of any person.

As used in this subsection, "advertisement" means any printed matter, device, picture, or symbol, no matter how presented to the senses, which informs the public that a good or service is available; and "commercial purpose" means with intent to produce a pecuniary gain through sale of a good or service. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the secretary of state may grant a written request by a private vendor to reproduce official state forms and documents, containing a reproduction of the great seal, for resale to persons intending to submit the forms or documents to any state entity in the regular course of business. The secretary of state may also grant a written request by a publisher, educational institution, or author to reproduce the great seal in any research, reference, or educational publication containing a compilation of the great seals of other states.

ADVERTISING UNDER THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION ACT

Political advertising is controlled by the Federal Highway Beautification Act which prohibits such advertising on, or adjacent to, the highway right-of-way on roads, either on the Interstate or primary highway systems. Such zoning may be permitted in only commercial or industrial zoned areas, plus a few isolated exceptions. Candidates should obtain permits for signs which are in conforming areas. For more information contact the Department of Transportation state or applicable district office.

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