

POLICY FAMILY	ALL SCHOOL EMPLOYEES	304
<p><u>304.</u></p> <p>Involvement with Proposition 2 ½ Ballot Questions</p> <p>Purpose and Philosophy</p> <p>Scope</p> <p>Guidelines</p> <p>Adopted 4/6/94 Amended 4/25/07</p>	<p>The purpose of this policy is to inform public employees of proscribed and permitted behaviors regarding actual or potential ballot questions, thus ensuring that governmental resources are not used to underwrite political activity. Staff members do not sacrifice their rights to freedom of speech relative to political questions, but are subject to specific restrictions established by the Office of Campaign and Political Finance (Interpretive Bulletins OCPF-IB-911-01 and OCPF-92-02). In general terms, taxpayer resources (paper, copy machines, telephones, fax machines, etc.) should not be used in favor or in opposition to a ballot question. However, a public employee may work for or against a ballot question on his/her own time.</p> <p>This policy applies to all employees of the Shrewsbury Public Schools. It does not apply to members of the elected School Committee.</p> <p>Employees in the Shrewsbury Public Schools must comply with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public employees are free to express their opinions on ballot questions on or off school property, to belong to organized groups, to contribute money to political groups, and to work for or against ballot question issues on their own time, provided that such work is not in a fund-raising capacity.</li> <li>• Public employees may not solicit funds for a political group, either directly or indirectly, even when that effort is in a different town from the place of their employment.</li> <li>• The names of public employees may appear among a list of names supporting or opposing a ballot question provided that the advertisement does not solicit funds.</li> <li>• The superintendent and/or principals may call a meeting and produce and distribute, at taxpayers' expense, information regarding a ballot question, including information that advocates for a position on a ballot question. Such materials may not be distributed unsolicited to those not in attendance at the meeting.</li> <li>• Information may be sent home to parents from schools (e.g., date of election, poll hours and reminder to vote) but may not advocate for any position on the ballot question.</li> </ul> <p>Use of school facilities must comply with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School facilities may be rented in accordance with Policy 851 for meetings of political groups working for or against ballot questions, and must be made available to groups regardless of their position on the question.</li> <li>• Posters or other publicity materials expressing a position on ballot questions may not be displayed in school buildings.</li> <li>• Funds for ballot questions or other political questions may not be solicited in school buildings at any time.</li> </ul>	