

ROSEVILLE *Ethics Tip*

September 2010

Interested in supporting political candidates?

Many of you may be interested in supporting particular candidates, including those running for local office.

Can you take part?

Yes. City employees do not lose their right to participate in the political process.

If you want to make a political contribution to a city council member but are worried because they may not accept gifts from those that have a "direct financial interest" in their decisions, take note: Minnesota law exempts legal contributions (money or anything of monetary value) given to a candidate or committee for a political purpose.

A few warnings do apply, however.

First, don't do it at work. Under the city's code, no city employee may solicit or receive political funds during work hours, whether directly or indirectly. Roseville City Code 104.05.E. Second, be mindful and respectful of your position. By law, employees may not use their authority or official influence, directly or indirectly, to influence another employee's political activities or decisions. You cannot compel any other employee to make a contribution, join a political organization, support a particular candidate or position, or take part in any political activity. Supervisory employees should be especially careful of any real or perceived influence they might have over other employees.

Sent on behalf of the Roseville Ethics Commission

Interested in learning more about City Ethics? Visit CITY ETHICS at <http://www.cityethics.org>

CITY ETHICS is a non-profit organization formed in 2000. Its purpose is to provide a centralized location for information and resources for all forms of local government ethics programs.