

Subject: Civic Involvement and Engagement

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1. Purpose

This policy addresses the involvement of college employees in civic activities, including participating in the electoral process or the advocacy of any ideological positions, or of any social, political, or religious opinions, positions, or viewpoints. It complies with the policy of the Virginia Community College System ([VCCS Policy Manual](#), Section 3.14.6).

2. Policy

Tidewater Community College recognizes and encourages the exercise of the right of its employees, as citizens, to engage in political and civic activities on their own time. Such engagement is consistent with the college’s duty to prepare an informed and involved citizenry.

Student leadership training and civic service are encouraged through both the formal curriculum and the college’s program of extracurricular activities. Faculty, staff, and administrators are encouraged to model exemplary civic involvement and engagement.

As a public institution, the college must carefully and evenhandedly interact with the public on partisan political issues and other public issues. The name and resources of the college may not be used in partisan political endorsements, campaigns, or otherwise. Only the Office of the President is authorized to establish and communicate a position on a public matter that involves the name and the authority of the college.

3. Responsibilities

The Vice President for Administration shall be responsible for developing and maintaining procedures that are consistent with this policy and that comply with applicable policies and procedures of the Virginia Community College System and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

4. Procedures

No procedures are associated with implementation of this policy.

5. Definitions

No definitions are associated with this policy.

6. References

[VCCS Policy Manual](#)

7. Review Periodicity and Responsibility

The Vice President for Administration shall review this policy annually on the anniversary of its approval and, if necessary, recommend revisions.

8. Effective Date and Approval

This policy is effective upon its approval by the College President on February 5, 2002.

Policy Approved:

Deborah M. DiCroce
President

9. Review and Revision History

This is the first version of this policy. The policy was re-formatted to be consistent with the college's format for policies and procedures in July 2009.