

Under Oregon law ORS 260.432, public employees are prohibited from participating in certain political activity while on the job. This does extend to appointed board members and commissioners. The Elections Division produces a [manual](#) providing explanation. See page 4:

Appointed Board Members and Commissioners

ORS 260.432 applies to all appointed board and commission members when they are acting in their official capacity. This includes, but is not limited to, attending a meeting of the board or commission, working on a duty assigned by the board or commission, working on official publications (including website materials) for the board or commission, or when appearing at an event in an official capacity.

Appointed board or commission members may use their titles to engage in political advocacy (including endorsing candidates, measures, etc.) as long as they are not acting in an official capacity when making the endorsement or authorizing use of their title.

Ex. A candidate approaches a planning commission board member and asks for their endorsement. The candidate asks if they can use the board member's title, and the board member agrees. This is allowable if the board member was on their personal time when they authorized the endorsement.

Ex. A candidate, attending a planning commission meeting, asks the board members for an endorsement and some board members agree. The board members are not allowed to do this because they are at a meeting and therefore acting in an official capacity

In addition, the Elections Division will answer questions about specific scenarios, and it does give individuals a safe harbor if something goes sideways. See page 2:

Assistance

If you have any questions about the material covered in this manual or need further assistance, please contact:

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