

Policy on Political Activities

- (1) This Policy on Political Activities defines eligible and ineligible uses of funds provided by the City of Toronto through grants programs as well as restricted and unrestricted activity within any City grant-funded activity.

In cases where a grant recipient devotes part of its resources to political activities,

- such political activities must be ancillary and incidental to its mandate, purpose, and project or service activities,
- such political activities must not include the direct or indirect support of or opposition to, any political party or candidate for public office.

- (2) An “ancillary and incidental” activity is one that is naturally connected with and subservient to a grant recipient’s larger mandate, purpose, and project, service, or educational activity, or something that exists only in conjunction with such larger mandate, purpose, and project, service, or educational activity.

- (3) A grant recipient may not use funds provided by the City to oppose or endorse a named candidate, party, or elected official. Funds provided by the City may not be devoted directly to such activities, or devoted indirectly through provision of resources to a third party engaged in partisan political activities.

- (4) Political activities undertaken as part of a City funded project not subject to any limitation include:

- all candidates meetings,
- oral and written presentations to the relevant Councillors to present the proponent’s views or to provide factual information,
- oral and written presentations or briefs containing factual information and recommendations to the relevant committees of Council,
- the provision of information and the expression of non-partisan views to the media that fall within the general ambit of the grant recipient’s mandate or purpose, as long as the devotion of resources to such activity is reasonable in the circumstances (i.e., is intended to inform and educate by providing information and views designed primarily to allow full and reasoned consideration of an issue, rather than to influence public opinion or to generate controversy),
- publications, conferences, workshops and other forms of communication that are produced or organized by a grant recipient in order to sway public opinion on political issues and matters of public policy,

- advertisements in newspapers, magazines or on television or radio to the extent that they are designed to attract interest in, or gain support for, a grant recipient's position on political issues and matters of public policy,
- public meetings or lawful demonstrations that are organized to publicize and gain support for a grant recipient's point of view on matters of public policy and political issues, and
- mail campaigns: requests by a grant recipient to its members or the public to forward letters or other written communications to the media and government expressing support for the organization's views on political issues and matters of public policy.

However, none of the above activities may be carried out in a manner which may reasonably be construed as supporting a particular candidate, elected official or particular party.

(Adopted by City Council at its meeting on April 14, 15 and 16, 2003)