

Dear Chaverim,

At our Region training meeting, many of you had questions regarding election year activities.

Here is our policy:

Permissible Activities for Hadassah Units Hadassah, as a 501(c) (3) organization, and its units are permitted to:

- Conduct non-partisan voter registration
- Encourage people to vote, provided it is done in a non-partisan way
- Educate voters about a range of issues, including the issues addressed by Hadassah's policy statements, as long as units do not refer to particular candidates' positions on issues
- Sponsor public candidate forums in which all candidates running for the same office are asked to participate (in their capacity as a candidate for public office), and which are conducted in a non-partisan manner. However, in no case can a unit sponsor a candidate forum on or after September 6, 2015 (or the Tuesday after Labor Day of any given election year).
- Prepare non-partisan candidate questionnaires in which all candidates running for the same office are asked for their positions on several public policy issues, and provided that those comments are printed without any commentary by Hadassah
- Invite an elected official to give a speech or participate in a panel, provided, however, that if the official is running for re-election he/she must be introduced and speak only in his/her capacity as an incumbent (or in some other capacity unrelated to his/her candidacy, i.e., a prominent civic leader or member of the Jewish community) and may not mention his/her candidacy or distribute campaign literature. It should be clear to the speaker that his/her participation cannot in any way be used to further or oppose a campaign or candidacy. However, in no case may an incumbent running for re-election or a candidate running for election speak or participate on a panel for a Hadassah activity on or after September 6, 2016 (or the Tuesday after Labor Day of any given election year). This cut-off date is not a requirement of law, but is instead imposed by Hadassah to avoid any possible appearance of partisanship by the hosting Hadassah unit.
- Give a Hadassah certificate or plaque to recognize or honor a speaker who is a government representative or employee. Impermissible Activities for Hadassah Units Hadassah, as a 501(c) (3) organization, and its units are strictly forbidden either by law or by internal Hadassah policy from

- Directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for local, state, or federal office
- Donating Hadassah money (or other goods and services, including office space) to any candidate or political party or to any organization that is fundraising for a candidate or political party
- Taking a position (verbally or in writing) on or responding to questions about particular candidates' positions on campaign-related issues (when asked to respond to a candidate's positions, you can direct such inquiries to the candidate's official campaign website or to contact the campaign directly)
- Conducting partisan voter registration (i.e. registering members of only one political party)
- Using any labels or descriptions with respect to candidates that can be viewed as indirectly conveying support or opposition (i.e. a candidate is politically "liberal" or "conservative")
- Accepting political advertising (paid or unpaid) in bulletins
- Selling or renting mailing lists to candidates (NOTE: selling or renting mailing lists is prohibited under any circumstances)
- Preparing or distributing a voter guide that focuses on a single issue or narrow range of issues or contains questions that are structured to reflect bias
- Making public statements of position (verbal or written) by or on behalf of Hadassah in favor of or in opposition to any candidate for public office
- Posting something on Hadassah's social media, including but not limited to, Hadassah's or a local unit's website (or linking to another website), a Hadassah sponsored Facebook page or Twitter account, that favors or opposes a candidate for public office
- Publicly "liking" or "following" any websites, twitter accounts, or Facebook pages that are solely designed to be for or against any candidate or potential candidate for public office (this includes any person who is proposed by others as a candidate even if he or she has not formally declared their intention to run for office)
- Hosting or having as a speaker an elected official who is running for re-election or a candidate running for election at a Hadassah sponsored event on or after September 6, 2016 (or the Tuesday after Labor Day of any given election year)

- Sponsoring public candidate forums under any circumstances on or after September 6, 2015 (or the Tuesday after Labor Day of any given election year)
- Gifting a Hadassah Life Membership or Associate enrollment to recognize or honor a speaker who is a government representative or employee (or to their family members). **Permissible Activities for Individual Hadassah Members** Every Hadassah member has the right, as an individual, to fully engage in partisan political activities, including contributing to candidates' campaigns or political parties and/or working on their behalf. But if a Hadassah member appears publicly to speak on behalf of a political party or candidate, and an inference can be drawn that she is speaking as a representative of Hadassah, then she must make it clear that she is speaking solely as an individual. **Impermissible Activities for Hadassah Presidents** As noted above, individuals have a right to engage in political activity in their private capacity. However, since a Hadassah President (locally or nationally) is always identified in the public mind as the official representative of her organization, Hadassah has decided as a matter of internal policy that any Hadassah President may not, for the duration of her term in office: 1 During the campaign season, it is critical that local units refrain from mentioning anything about candidates for public office in its communications through Hadassah's social media to avoid the appearance of Hadassah endorsing or opposing such candidate. This includes not mentioning any Hadassah connection to a candidate for public office, such as the candidate being an Associate or Life member of Hadassah or having attended a Hadassah event. k:\VOICE Guide to Permissible Activities
- Run for public office
- Volunteer for a political party or candidate's campaign or take any other action that would identify her as having support for (or opposition to) a candidate or political party (e.g., a Hadassah President shouldn't become an election inspector since even though the position is billed as a nonpartisan role, there is a requirement that both Democrats and Republicans be represented at each voting site)
- Make partisan comments in official Hadassah publications or at official Hadassah functions
- Endorse any political candidate or party, which includes posting something on her own personal Facebook page, putting a bumper sticker on the family car or wearing a pin designated to a political party or candidate campaign (but she may still give her own personal money and vote)
- Publicly "like" or "follow" any websites, twitter accounts, or Facebook pages that are solely designed to be for or against the political candidacy of anyone.

• Lend her name to the endorsement or condemnation of any controversial issue unless National Hadassah has already approved that matter. If you have any questions regarding these matters, please do not hesitate to contact the Programming Department at (212) 303-8136 or advocacy@hadassah.org.

Please be sure to share this information with all of your chapters.

Susan