

GUIDELINES REGARDING POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY IEEE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION (IEEE SA) VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

IEEE Standards Association (“IEEE SA”) encourages its volunteers and staff to be active and informed citizens. IEEE SA supports the right of individuals, including IEEE SA volunteers and staff, to share their prerogatives as citizens. However, as a nonprofit corporation, IEEE SA as an organizational unit of IEEE is prohibited from participating in political campaigns for candidates or ballot initiatives and is restricted in conducting lobbying activities. Violation of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations could have serious ramifications for IEEE, including loss of its tax-exempt status.

Therefore, IEEE SA provides guidelines on politically related activity by its volunteers and staff. These guidelines cannot address every potential situation. Questions regarding these guidelines should be directed to compliance@ieee.org. IEEE SA reserves the right to amend or modify these guidelines at its discretion or as it deems necessary to comply with the regulations governing political activities of 501(c)(3) entities.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Volunteers and staff may take part in partisan political activities freely on their own personal time, but they must not do so in the course of their role and responsibilities for IEEE SA, nor should they represent that they are acting for or on behalf of IEEE SA, or give the appearance that they are representing IEEE SA.

FUNDRAISING AND GIFT RESTRICTIONS

Funds or contributions for political candidates or campaigns may not be solicited in the name of IEEE SA, and IEEE SA resources may not be used in soliciting such funds. If IEEE SA volunteers or staff members make political contributions they do so as individuals and not on behalf of IEEE or IEEE SA.

LOBBYING

Volunteers and staff may lobby government officials freely on their own time, but they must not do so in the course of their role and responsibilities for IEEE SA nor should they represent that they are acting for or on behalf of IEEE SA, or give the appearance that they are representing IEEE SA.

It should be noted that these guidelines relate solely to individual IEEE SA volunteer and staff conduct and do not address the scope of IEEE SA actions.

OTHER ACTIVITY

- Unless specifically authorized by IEEE SA you may not accept an offer from an outside organization to speak as a representative of or about the IEEE standardization process, IEEE Standards activities, IEEE SA, or IEEE.
- You may not provide representations about the performance of an IEEE standard or the availability of an IEEE standard at no cost (except in instances where IEEE is providing the standard to the public at no cost) without explicit permission from IEEE SA.
- Unless specifically authorized in writing in advance, you may not appear as a witness, give testimony, or sign a statement advocating a position on behalf of IEEE or IEEE SA. This includes lobbying before any government, legislative, judicial, or administrative body.
- If you receive an inquiry from a government official or agency relating to IEEE or IEEE SA, contact IEEE SA immediately.

QUESTIONS should be directed to: compliance@ieee.org