

**Public Disclosure Commission
Guidelines for School Districts in Election Campaigns**

Persons	Permitted	Not Permitted	General Considerations
PTSAs (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May print and distribute a separate newsletter advocating support for the ballot measure so long as no district resources are used (such as kid mail, newsletters, websites, or some other format). • May remind voters of upcoming election dates in the PTSA newsletter or in their part of the school newsletter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shall not print and distribute materials promoting the ballot measure in the school newsletter. • Shall not use a school or district-sponsored event to promote or oppose a candidate or a ballot measure. 	
School Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May collectively vote to support or oppose a ballot measure at a properly noticed public meeting, where opponents of the measure are given an equal opportunity to express views.⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shall not pressure or coerce the superintendent to participate in campaign activities. • Shall not explicitly include passage of a ballot measure in the district's annual goals. 	
School Board Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May engage in political activities on his or her own time, if no public equipment, vehicle or facility is used. (An elected official may use his or her title, but should clarify that he/she is speaking on his/her own behalf, and not on behalf of the district. If the board has adopted a resolution, the board member can then speak on behalf of the district.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shall not direct district staff to perform tasks to support or oppose campaign activities or ballot measures. • Shall not use public facilities or resources in engaging in political activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the board member using staff time, a public vehicle, or other public resources? • Has the board adopted a resolution? If yes, the board member can speak on behalf of the district. If not, has the board member made it clear that he or she is not speaking on behalf of the district?

⁶RCW 42.17.130(1) provides that action may be "taken at an open public meeting by members of an elected legislative body or by an elected board, council, or commission of a special purpose district including, but not limited to, fire districts, public hospital districts, library districts, park districts, port districts, public utility districts, school districts, sewer districts, and water districts, to express a collective decision, or to actually vote upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot proposition so long as (a) any required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the legislative body, members of the board, council, or commission of the special purpose district, or members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view;"