

# Active Political Candidates Speaking at Club Meetings

Rotary International does not endorse political candidates and prohibits clubs from endorsing political candidates.

However, this should not prohibit candidates from speaking at club meetings.

It is the responsibility of Rotarians to be informed about the issues affecting their local community, state and nation.

Allowing the main party candidates to address the club is a good way for members to learn the candidates views on key issues.

The club itself can remain neutral by allowing each candidate an opportunity to address the club.

# **It is the responsibility of Rotarians to be informed about the issues affecting their local community, state and nation.**

- Allowing candidates to speak to the club and answer questions helps Rotarians stay informed.
- RI Manual of Procedure - it is the duty of Rotarians in their clubs, to keep under review political developments in their own communities and throughout the world insofar as they affect service to their vocations and communities... [See Slide](#)
- RI Code of Policies - Also states it is the duty of Rotarians within their clubs keep under review political developments... [See Slide](#)

Allowing the main party candidates to address the club is a good way for members to learn the candidates views on key issues.

- Rotarians can learn candidates views on issues.
- Club members can question candidates directly.

The club itself can remain neutral by allowing each candidate an opportunity to address the club.

- By giving each main party candidate the opportunity to speak the club remains neutral.
- Allowing a candidate to speak is not an endorsement of the candidate.

# Rotary International Code of Policies

- The following slides contain excerpts from the Code of Policies
- The complete Code of Policies is available for download [Here](#)

## 2.100. Clubs and Politics

RI and its member clubs must refrain from issuing partisan political statements. Rotarians likewise are prohibited from adopting statements with a view to exerting any corporate pressure on governments or political authorities. However, it is the duty of Rotarians within their clubs keep under review political developments in their communities and throughout the world, insofar as they affect their service to their vocations and their communities as well as the pursuit of Rotary objective of world understanding and peace. They also are expected to seek reliable information through balanced programs and discussions so that each club member can reach or her own conclusions after a fair collective examination of the issues. Outside of their clubs, individual Rotarians are to be active in as many legally constituted groups and organizations possible in order to promote through exemplary dedication, the awareness of the dignity humankind and respect of human rights of the individual. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

## 26.040. RI and Politics

Because its world-wide membership includes persons of many facets of political opinion, no corporate action or corporate expression of opinion shall be taken or given by Rotary International on political subjects. However, freedom of speech and freedom of association are essential for the healthy development of Rotary in any given country. (November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99)

### 32.030.14. RI Support for Evanston

RI shall support appropriately all employees who, as citizens of the City of Evanston, participate actively in the political, cultural and civic life of the City of Evanston. On a reasonable basis, the general secretary shall make available the facilities of One Rotary Center that can be utilized by the citizens of the City of Evanston and the Chicago area to promote cultural, educational, or other civic activities that are consistent with the purposes and programs or objectives of RI or its Foundation. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

# Rotary International Manual of Procedure

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## Rotary and Politics

RI and its member clubs must refrain from issuing partisan political statements.

Rotarians are prohibited from adopting statements with a view to exerting any corporate pressure on governments or political authorities. However, it is the duty of Rotarians:

- 1) In their clubs, to keep under review political developments in their own communities and throughout the world insofar as they affect service to their vocations and communities as well as the pursuit of the Rotary objective of world understanding and peace. They are expected to seek reliable information through balanced programs and discussions so that members can reach their own conclusions after the fair collective examination of the issues.
- 2) Outside their clubs, to be active as individuals in as many legally constituted groups and organizations as possible to promote, not only in words but through exemplary dedication, the awareness of the dignity of all people and the respect of the consequent human rights of the individual.

### **RI and Politics**

Because its worldwide membership includes persons of many facets of political opinion, no corporate action or corporate expression of opinion shall be taken or given by Rotary International on political subjects. (RCP 26.040.)

### **Rotary International and International Service**

Since RI consists of Rotary clubs located in many countries with many points view, no corporate action or corporate expression on a political subject will taken or given by RI. (RCP 26.040.) However, RI, through its member clubs worldwide, encourages and fosters international understanding and goodwill among peoples as a basis for peace among nations.

# Tullahoma Noon Rotary Club Constitution

## **Article XII Community, National and International Affairs**

**Section 1 Proper Subjects.** The merits of any public question involving the general welfare of the community, the nation and the world are of concern to the members of this club and shall be proper subjects of fair and informed study and discussion at a club meeting for the enlightenment of its members in forming their individual opinions. However, this club shall not express an opinion on any pending controversial public measure.

**Section 2 No Endorsements.** This club shall not endorse or recommend any candidate for public office and shall not discuss at any club meeting the merits or demerits of any such candidate.

**Section 3 Non-Political.(a) Resolutions and Opinions.** This club shall neither adopt nor circulate resolutions or opinions, and shall not take action dealing with world affairs or international policies of a political nature.(b) Appeals. This club shall not direct appeals to clubs, peoples or governments, or circulate letters, speeches, or proposed plans for the solution of specific international problems of a political nature.

**Section 4 Recognizing Rotary's Beginning.**The week of the anniversary of Rotary's founding (23 February) shall be known as World Understanding and Peace Week. During this week, this club will celebrate Rotary service, reflect upon past achievements and focus on programs of peace, understanding and goodwill in the community and throughout the world.