

# Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) Guidelines For PTAs Regarding Campaigns



## Activities & Resources Permitted

- May use school facilities for meetings supporting or opposing a ballot measure to the extent that the facilities are made available on an equal access, nondiscriminatory basis, and it is part of the normal and regular activity of the district.
- 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 PTA newsletter or in the PTA part of the school newsletter or e-news.
- May use a PTA sponsored event to promote a ballot measure and have campaign materials available to distribute.

## District Website Links Permitted

- Districts are required to inform voters about levies and bonds. District and school websites will post factual information only about the anticipated ballot measure. No advocacy materials are permitted. Links from the District or school website to PTA should follow the “2 Clicks Away motto” \*See details below

## Reader Boards/Posters/Signs Permitted

- Information encouraging staff and members of the public to vote, or providing the dates of upcoming elections such as “Vote on February 13th”, may be posted, as long as such encouragement is *customarily posted for elections* other than just a district ballot measure.
- Union representatives/employees may post campaign materials on a bulletin board, if such a board is in an area that is only accessible to staff or other authorized individuals and if such activity is consistent with the district’s policy and collective bargaining agreements.
- Staff/volunteers may place window signs or bumper stickers on their privately-owned cars, even if those cars are parked on school property during working hours. Staff/volunteers can wear wristbands on school property advocating to “Vote Yes” (regarded as a personal item like jewelry.)

## Activities & Resources NOT Permitted

- Shall not use school facilities or equipment to produce materials that support or oppose a ballot measure, unless the district offers printing services on an equal access, non-discriminatory basis to others.
- Shall not print and distribute materials promoting the ballot measure in the school newsletter or e-news.
- Shall not use a school or district sponsored event to promote or oppose a candidate or a ballot measure.

## District Website Links NOT Permitted

- District websites shall not be used for the purposes of supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot measure.

## Reader Boards/Posters/Signs NOT Permitted

- Districts shall not display or allow a “vote schools” sign or other promotional messages on reader boards or posters on district property.
- Signs advocating for or against candidates or ballot measures shall not be posted on district property in any area accessible to the general public or in classrooms.



## In doubt, or not sure?

Contact Dawn Peschek at [dawn@visvote.org](mailto:dawn@visvote.org)  
or Alicia Veevaert at [alicia@visvote.org](mailto:alicia@visvote.org)

## KEY POINTS:

- No “Vote Yes” fliers allowed on or left on school property after a PTA meeting.
- No “Vote Yes” action items explicitly in **school** e-news. You can say “Vote Yes” in your PTA enews if PTA sends out through its own database direct to its membership.
- No “Vote Yes” signs visibly allowed on school or district property at any time (unless temporarily stored covered in staff room, not open to public area, for use during honk & waves)
- \* **Follow the “2 clicks away” motto:** PTAs can post Bond & Levy measure information on their own websites. However, since most PTA websites have a link from their school website to their PTA website, any call to action or advocating to support or oppose a school measure (i.e. “VOTE YES”) needs to be a click away from your PTA homepage. This follows the “2 clicks away” motto we use to comply with PDC rules. **First click** from school page to PTA page, **second click** from PTA homepage to see action items on **dedicated page for levy and bond info**.  
\*\*You can put the “VOLUNTEERS for ISSAQUAH SCHOOLS” logo (as pictured above on this page) on your homepage menu that links to a dedicated page with VIS info specific to your PTA including honk and wave info & links, community info night or meeting info, etc. or you can link direct to VIS at [www.visvote.org](http://www.visvote.org).