

351—5.4 (68A) Use of public resources for a political purpose prohibited.

5.4(1) *General prohibition.* Unless one of the exceptions in rule 351—5.5(68A) applies, the public officials and public employees of the executive branch of state government, a county, city, public school, or other political subdivision shall not permit public resources to be used to expressly advocate the nomination, election, or defeat of a candidate or to expressly advocate the passage or defeat of a ballot issue.

5.4(2) *Specific prohibitions.* For purposes of clarifying the general prohibition on the use of public resources for a political purpose, the board has identified situations in which the use of public resources for a political purpose is prohibited unless one of the exceptions in rule 351—5.5(68A) applies. The following specific conduct or actions are deemed to be the prohibited use of public resources for a political purpose:

- a. Using public resources to solicit or accept campaign contributions.
- b. Using public resources to solicit votes, engage in campaign work, or poll voters on their preferences for candidates or ballot issues. The prohibition on polling voters by using public resources does not apply to authorized research at a public university.
- c. Using a publicly owned motor vehicle to transport political materials, placing campaign signs on a publicly owned motor vehicle, or traveling to campaign-related events in a publicly owned motor vehicle.
- d. Using public resources to produce and distribute communications that expressly advocate for or against candidates or that expressly advocate for or against ballot issues.
- e. Placing campaign materials on public property including the placement of campaign signs in the public right-of-way.

5.4(3) *Transportation maps.* As provided in Iowa department of transportation rule 761—28.3(307), Iowa transportation maps are not to be sold or used for purposes of personal or professional gain. The paper version of the map is not to be altered for distribution in any way, including adding a name or address, by candidates running for political office. This prohibition does not apply to pictures of the governor and lieutenant governor and a personal message which may appear on the map.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 68A.505.