



Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University National Alumni Association, Inc.

COL Gregory L. Clark, President

May 28, 2020

IMPORTANT NOTICE: POLITICAL ACTIVITY

As the political season is upon us, the executive board of Florida A&M University National Alumni Association would like to gently remind each chapter and member that Section 4.6 of the FAMU NAA bylaws **prohibits the NAA from campaigning or electioneering activities for public elected officials**. Additionally, non-profit organizations formed under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (I.R.C.) are prohibited from engaging in political campaigning. Florida law and University regulations also prohibit such illegal activity (See §1004.28, Florida Statutes and FAMU BOT Policy No. 2018-01).

Under the I.R.C., all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from **directly or indirectly** participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. Contributions to political campaign funds or public statements of position (verbal or written) made on behalf of the organization in favor of or in opposition to any candidate for public office clearly violate the prohibition against political campaign activity. **Violating this prohibition may result in denial or revocation of tax-exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes.**

Certain activities or expenditures may not be prohibited depending on the facts and circumstances. For example, certain voter education activities (including presenting public forums and publishing voter education guides) conducted in a non-partisan manner do not constitute prohibited political campaign activity. In addition, other activities intended to encourage people to participate in the electoral process, such as voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, would not be prohibited political campaign activity if conducted in a non-partisan manner. On the other hand, voter education or registration activities with evidence of bias that (a) would favor one candidate over another; (b) oppose a candidate in some manner; or (c) have the effect of favoring a candidate or group of candidates, will constitute prohibited participation or intervention.

With this in mind, Florida A&M University National Alumni Association is reminding you of the importance of remaining diligent in assuring that we refrain from engaging in the political process in such a way as to threaten the FAMU National Alumni Association's mission of providing financial support to our beloved university and its student body.

Please note that **prohibited political activities** apply to, but are not limited to, the following: posting or allowing posts on NAA chapter or region social media sites,

transmitting communication via chapter or region email, letters, or telephone, hosting or promoting partisan events, and advocating for any candidates for public elective office.

If you have any questions you may contact the FAMU NAA General Counsel, Reginald J. Mitchell Sr., Esq., at counsel@famunaa.org.

Sincerely,

Gregory L Clark

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