SUMMARY:

As responsible and interested citizens in a democratic society, employees of Coastal Carolina University are encouraged to fulfill their civic obligations and otherwise engage in the normal political processes of society, provided that the participation does not prevent the full discharge of the employee’s responsibilities to the University.

This policy also covers usage of University facilities for political activities.

POLICY:

I. As responsible and interested citizens in a democratic society, employees of Coastal Carolina University are encouraged to fulfill their civic obligations and otherwise engage in the normal political processes of society, provided that the participation does not prevent the full discharge of the employee’s responsibilities to the University. The following policies governing political activities have been adopted:

A. All employees of Coastal Carolina University shall be free to participate in political activities on the local, state or national levels such as running for political office and assuming leadership roles in political organizations, provided that the participation does not prevent the full discharge of their performance of duties or services for which he or she receives compensation from the University and that no Coastal Carolina University or South Carolina public resources are used;

B. Employees seeking elective or political office at the State or Federal level must first request a leave of absence without pay beginning prior to qualification as a candidate in a primary or general election and ending
after the general or final election. If elected to State or Federal office, such individual must resign from Coastal Carolina University prior to assuming office.

C. Employees may seek and hold elective office at other than the State or Federal level, or may hold appointive office at any level, when such candidacy for or holding of the office does not prevent the full discharge of duties or services for which compensation is received from the University and that no Coastal Carolina University or South Carolina public resources are used, unless used in the discharge of duties by an employee holding an appointive or elective office. Neither Coastal Carolina University nor South Carolina public resources may be used for campaign purposes by candidates for elective positions.

D. In any such political activity and/or communication with elected officials, excluding communication authorized by the University President or his or her designee, the Coastal Carolina University employee must make it clear that he or she is acting as a private citizen and is in no way representing Coastal Carolina University;

E. Candidates for employment at Coastal Carolina University may not hold a political office at the State or Federal level;

F. University facilities shall not be used for political rallies or for campaign purposes that would further the interest of the candidate or candidates of any one political party without providing similar access to other parties on an equal basis.

G. The University may invite political candidates to speak at University functions and will extend such invitations to the candidates of different major parties on an equal basis.

H. The University welcomes visits by elected officials and their staffs, whether their visits are personal or in an official capacity. All such visits are to be coordinated through the Office of University Relations/Government Relations.

I. While it is useful for officials to receive University publications, it is important to coordinate such distributions to avoid duplication. When requests for information, reports and data from elected officials or their staffs are made to individuals within the University community, responses to the requests are to be coordinated through the Office of University Relations/Government Relations.