

HSNP Rotary Board of Directors accepted this Political Policy on June 24, 2014.

POLITICS – ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AND HSNP ROTARY
(FROM RI CODE OF POLICIES – 1998)

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 to 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 the 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 his 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 as possible in order to promote through exemplary dedication, the awareness of the dignity of humankind and respect of human rights of the individual. (June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

(Revised June 2014 from Etiquette and Protocol General Policies)

The club is dedicated to the Rotary motto “Service Above Self”. We encourage members to be active in politics and community causes. Rotary International has established guidelines, which this club follows. We are non-partisan and apolitical. The following guidelines apply:

1. Members are encouraged to develop programs designed to educate and inform the membership about issues and candidates. In the event a political program is planned, it must be scheduled with the Program Chairperson. If one candidate is allowed to speak to our club, the other candidate must also be allowed to speak to the club so that the views of both candidates have been heard and the members can make an informed decision as to who they will vote for. The key point here is both candidates in a race being given the chance/invitation to speak to the club.
2. Rotary encourages elected officials who embrace the concept of “Service Above Self” to become active club members. Club members may not circulate nomination papers and wear campaign buttons at meetings.
3. When politicians are invited guests of a member, they are encouraged to visit and openly enjoy the fellowship. Obvious campaigning is discouraged. The Rotary host will introduce his or her guest and avoid any obvious reference to their guest’s politics. If the guest is a current office holder, it is appropriate to state that in the introduction.
4. Fundraising, campaigning and recruitment of volunteers is not permitted at a club meeting.
5. Rotary may, from time to time, sponsor formal and informal debates in an effort to educate the membership. A debate or discussion may occur only if all sides of the issue are represented. Rotary International rules do not permit a club to take an official position on any candidate, party or issue. Members are asked to be sensitive to the fact that we live in a diverse society with many views and perspectives.

ROTARY POLITICAL SPEAKER/CAMPAIGNING POLICY

1. Sitting political office holders are encouraged to speak to this club.
2. In an effort to give our members the opportunity to be fully informed, when this club seeks to have political office seekers to speak to our club, we will seek to have all candidates for a given office during the general election given the opportunity to speak to our club. If one candidate chooses not to accept our invitation or cannot work us in on the dates available, that will not prevent the other candidate(s) from speaking to our club.
3. In an effort to limit the number of political speakers in a given year, the club has chosen to allow the candidate field to be narrowed down through the primary elections. We will then seek to have the remaining candidates for the following three state offices come speak to our club as to what their platforms are. Those three offices are Governor, U. S. Senator and U. S. Representative for the 4th District. These candidates are simply the individuals we will seek to have speak to our club. However, it should be noted that the Program Chairperson and his/her committee are not required to have any political candidates speak. The Program Chairperson may also petition the Board of Directors for approval to conduct other political programs or debates that they deem worthy for a program for our membership.
4. Political speakers and guests may not campaign or distribute campaign materials at a club meeting. Furthermore, no recruitment of volunteers for campaigns should be sought at any Rotary meeting.