

Adopted: May 8, 2015

COUNTY OF ORLEANS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
POLICY ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY

The mission of the County of Orleans Industrial Development Agency (the “Agency”) is to create and retain employment opportunities and enhance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Orleans County. As such, the Agency has a responsibility to the citizens and taxpayers of Orleans County to conduct itself in a politically neutral fashion that engenders public trust and confidence.

This policy is designed to further the Agency’s neutrality and to avoid potential conflicts arising from representations of opinion that may be construed as representing official viewpoints of the Agency and to address political activity on the part of the members and employees of the Agency.

Since the Agency seeks to remain politically neutral, it is the policy of the Agency that Agency funds shall not be used for the production, publication or dissemination of any advertising or promotional materials or publications or information prepared by others which might be construed as an endorsement of any candidate for public office, or for expenditures on behalf of any candidates for public office. The Agency shall not endorse candidates for public office or engage in activities intended to influence the outcome of a political election.

The members and employees of the Agency may engage as private individuals or as elected officials in political activity, but shall take appropriate steps to keep those activities separate from the affairs of the Agency so as to avoid public confusion between individual behavior and public actions on the part of the Agency. In expressing personal opinions on public issues, members and employees of the Agency shall take steps to ensure that such opinions are not construed as representing the opinion or official position of the Agency.

Subject to compliance with any applicable legal requirements, nothing contained in this policy shall prohibit the Agency from taking positions, either on its own or through trade groups or organizations, regarding legislation or government actions or programs relating to economic development, business regulation or other matters which would or could impact job creation or business development within Orleans County and New York State or from contributing to trade groups or organizations which provide advocacy with respect to such legislation or government actions or programs.