



NSW Police Force

Political Affiliations Policy Statement

All members of the NSW Police Force (police officers and administrative employees) have the right to engage in political expression, affiliation and activities, including standing as a political candidate.

With these rights comes the responsibility to ensure that:

- any personal political interests or activities engaged in by the member do not conflict with their duties
- personal political interests or comments are undertaken or expressed in a strictly private capacity and are not attributed to the NSW Police Force
- if standing as a political candidate, a member must not use their position within the NSW Police Force to unduly influence voters
- community expectations of members of the NSW Police Force to act fairly, efficiently, without bias and with integrity when performing their duties are upheld
- the government of the day maintains confidence in the impartiality of the actions undertaken and advice given by members of the NSW Police Force
- NSW Police Force resources are not used for the purposes of private political activity.

Our commitment is to ensure that all NSW Police Force members:

- do not release NSW Police Force information to political figures or candidates in the course of their duties without proper authorisation
- do not engage in party politics while on duty, with personal political activity always being undertaken in a strictly private capacity, clearly separate from their position as a member of the NSW Police Force
- do not wear police uniform, including badges and nameplates, when undertaking political activities of any kind
- do not use police equipment or facilities for carrying out personal political activities
- do not display politically sensitive material on or from NSW Police Force premises, vehicles or equipment
- do not present personal political comments or comments made on behalf of a union / association as being made on behalf of the NSW Police Force
- report any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest in relation to their political affiliations
- are aware of the procedures to be undertaken when standing as a political candidate
- are aware that a failure to follow this policy and the related *Political Affiliations Guidelines* may result in management action.

Responsibilities:

- **Senior executive** - approve and support this policy statement; regularly monitor and review the policy statement; and support a culture that achieves the required outcome of this policy statement.
- **Professional Standards Command** - regularly monitors and improves this policy statement.
- **Commanders/managers** - communicate, manage and achieve compliance with this policy statement within their command by identifying risks and obligations; developing controls; monitoring effectiveness of controls; reporting breaches; and attesting to the effectiveness of command compliance/adherence.
- **All staff** - know and comply with this policy statement and promptly report any breaches to management.

**Assistant Commissioner
Professional Standards Command
April 2022**