

January 16, 2020

Jay Parmley
Executive Director
S.C. Democratic Party
1929 Gadsden St.
Columbia, SC 29201
Via Email: jay@scdp.org

Dear Jay,

I am writing in response to your request for guidance on whether distribution of Democratic Party organizational materials is allowable at polling places during the February 29, 2020 Democratic Presidential Preference Primary. I understand these materials will be related to the party's local, organizational meetings and will in no way have the intent or effect of supporting or opposing any candidate in the election. I believe the party conducted similar activity during the 2008 Democratic Presidential Preference Primary, and guidance was provided by the State Election Commission.

COMMISSIONERS

JOHN WELLS
Chairperson

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

HAROLD E. FAUST

SCOTT MOSELEY

VACANT

MARCI ANDINO
Executive Director

While distribution of campaign material is prohibited within 200 feet of the entrance of any polling place on election day, there is no express prohibition on the distribution of other material. However, the county boards of voter registration and elections (county boards) and poll managers do have the authority to prohibit activities at a polling place that interfere with the orderly conduct of the election.

To help ensure this activity does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the election:

- Do not distribute any material that supports or opposes any candidate.
- Do not distribute material inside the polling place. Limit distribution to outside.
- Limit distribution to voters leaving the polling place, rather than arriving.
- Be courteous and respectful to voters and poll managers.
- Follow all lawful commands of poll managers. If managers ask individuals distributing material to leave the polling place grounds, do so immediately.

Prior to election day, the Democratic Party should reach out to the individual county boards and let them know where this activity will take place. This will allow county boards to notify poll managers and ensure they understand these guidelines.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Chris Whitmire
Director of Public Information

1122 Lady Street
Suite 500
Columbia, SC 29201

P.O. Box 5987
Columbia, SC 29250

803.734.9060
Fax: 803.734.9366
www.scvotes.org

cc: Election Directors of the 46 County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections