

Code of Probate Judicial Conduct

Dianne E. Yamin

Judge, Danbury Probate Court

John J. McGrath, Jr.

Judge, Windham-Colchester Probate Court

Paul J. Knierim

Probate Court Administrator

June 22, 2017

CANON 4

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

RULE 4.1 POLITICAL DOS AND DON'TS

- OK:
 - Be a member of town committee
 - Identify yourself as member of a political party
 - Contribute funds to candidates and party organizations
 - Purchase tickets and attend political gatherings
 - Sign petition as an individual
 - Vote at a nominating caucus

RULE 4.1 PROHIBITED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

- NOT OK:
 - Accept leadership role in political party
 - Manage a campaign
 - Publicly endorse (or oppose) a candidate
 - Post campaign signs for other candidates on your property or wear buttons or stickers
 - Act as a delegate to a nominating convention
 - Personally solicit or accept contributions

RULE 4.1 PROHIBITED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

- NOT OK (continued):
 - Become a candidate for any other elected office
 - If you run, you must resign as judge
 - If you hold any other elective office now, immediate resignation is required
 - Act as election moderator, recorder, watcher
 - Drive voters to the polls
 - Circulate nomination petition for another candidate

RULE 4.2 SPECIAL RULES WHEN YOU ARE A JUDICIAL CANDIDATE

- OK:
 - Seek endorsements
 - Establish campaign committee
 - Speak about candidacy through any medium
 - Appear with other candidates of same party
 - Post campaign signs or wear buttons or stickers supporting own candidacy
 - But not in court

RULE 4.2 SPECIAL RULES WHEN YOU ARE A JUDICIAL CANDIDATE

- NOT OK:
 - Personally solicit contributions
 - Accept contributions other than through campaign committee
 - Use campaign funds for private benefit
 - Use court staff, facilities or court resources for campaign
 - Authorize any person to do what Code prohibits you from doing

RULE 4.4 CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES

- Committee is vehicle to conduct campaign
- Candidate is responsible for ensuring that committee complies with the Code and applicable law
 - Committee handles all aspects of fundraising
 - All solicitation, receipt and disbursement of campaign funds must be conducted through committee
 - Judge must instruct committee to solicit or accept only contributions that are reasonable in amount and appropriate under the circumstances
 - Beware contributions from lawyers and parties⁸