

National Executive Director

PO Box 70735 SW Station
Washington, DC 20024-0735



Policy Memorandum 2016-01

Date: 05 August 2016

Subject: Political Rallies/Candidate Support

1. Background. The Young Marines of the Marine Corps League (hereafter referred to as Young Marines) is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 youth services and education organization that receives federal funding. As such, our organization and all similarly funded organizations are prohibited from publicly showing their support for any candidate running for any political office or attending rallies that are politically charged and designed to address or advance a particular political candidate or agenda, while in uniform (Young Marines or Registered Adult volunteer) and representing the Young Marines program.
2. Policy. No unit or registered member of the Young Marines may demonstrate their support for a candidate running for any elected position while wearing the uniform of the Young Marines, including any clothing that indicates association with Young Marines, such as unit t-shirts or polo shirts. Furthermore, no unit or registered member of the Young Marines may participate in a rally that suggests supporting a political candidate or agenda while wearing the uniform of the Young Marines. We must avoid any actions (dress, signage, web content, etc.) that could be perceived by the public as supportive of a particular candidate, party, or political cause. This policy extends to Registered Adults and to Young Marines. Failure to adhere to the prescripts of our 501(c)3 could result in the loss of our not-for-profit status. Any unit failing to comply with this policy will immediately surrender its charter and will remain in suspended status pending the outcome of an inquiry. Individuals will face similar actions.
3. Social Media. This policy extends to any social media sites used to conduct Young Marines business. This policy does not extend to personal social media sites not connected to the Young Marines or Young Marine units.
4. Personal Political Support. This policy applies only to Young Marines and Registered Adult volunteers, when they are wearing the Young Marines uniform or any Young Marines garment bearing the Young Marines logo at such events. Nothing in this policy restricts in any way the rights of Young Marines members and volunteers to engage in political activity when they are not representing the Young Marines organization. This includes registration and voting, contributing money to candidates and political causes, attending political functions, and expressing political opinions on candidates and issues. Restrictions only apply when engaging in activity where it may reasonably be inferred that they are representing the Young Marines organization.
5. Division Commanders will ensure widest dissemination of this policy to all levels. This Policy Memorandum replaces Memorandum 2010-01.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William P. Davis".

Col William P. Davis, USMC (Ret)
National Executive Director/CEO
Young Marines of the Marine Corps League