

§ 7.26

§ 7.26 Private business activity and conflicts of interest.

(a) No county committee member, community committee member, delegate, alternate to any such office, or county office employee shall at any time use such office or employment to promote any private business interest.

(b) County committee members, community committee members, delegates, or alternates, and any person employed in the county office shall be subject to the official instructions issued with respect to conflicts of interest and proper conduct.

§ 7.27 Political activity.

(a) No person may be a member of the county governing body or hold a Federal, State, or county office filled by an election held pursuant to law or be employed by any such office and also hold office as a county committee member, community committee member, delegate, alternate to such office, or be employed in any capacity, except, that members of school boards, soil conservation district boards, weed control district boards, or of similar boards are not ineligible to hold office or employment under this paragraph solely because of membership on such boards.

(b) No person may be a candidate for membership on the county governing body or for any Federal, State, or county office filled by an election held pursuant to law and hold office as a county committee member, community committee member, delegate, alternate to any such office, or be employed in any capacity, except, that candidates for school boards, soil conservation district boards, irrigation district boards, drainage district boards, weed control district boards, or for similar boards are not ineligible to hold office or employment under this subsection solely because of candidacy for such boards.

(c) No person may be an officer, employee, or delegate to a convention of any political party or political organization and hold office as a county committee member, community committee member, delegate, alternate to any such office, or be employed in any capacity.

7 CFR Subtitle A (1-1-05 Edition)

(d) The tenure of office of any county committee member, community committee member, delegate, alternate to any such office, or the employment of any employee, shall be automatically terminated as soon as any such person becomes ineligible for office of employment under the provisions of paragraph (a), (b), or (c) of this section.

(e) No county committee member, community committee member, delegate, or alternate to any such office, or any employee shall at any time engage in the following political activities:

(1) Solicit or receive any contributions (including the sale of tickets) for political party organizations or for a candidate for political office or for any other political purpose in any room or building used for the transaction of any Federal official business, or at any place from any other county committee member, community committee member, delegate, or alternate to any such office or employee.

(2) Use official authority or influence to discharge, remove, demote, or promote any employee, or threaten or promise to so do, for withholding or giving contributions (including the buying or the refusal to buy tickets) for political purposes, or for supporting or opposing any candidate or any political organization in any primary, general, or special election for political office.

(3) Use or direct or permit the use of any official space, equipment, materials, supplies, or personal services either to support or oppose any political office holder, candidate or party, or for any other political purpose.

(f) A county committee member or alternate to such office, an employee on any day when entitled to receive pay for services in performance of duties, or an employee who serves during a continuous period of 90 days or more and has a regular tour of duty established in advance at any time, shall not solicit, collect, receive, disburse, or otherwise handle contributions of money, pledges, gifts, or anything of value (including the sale of tickets) made for:

(1) Political party organizations;

(2) A candidate for political office in any primary, general, or special election, but excluding such activities on

behalf of individual candidates in township and municipal elections; or

(3) Any other political purpose.

[52 FR 48512, Dec. 23, 1987; 53 FR 1441, Jan. 19, 1988]

§ 7.28 Removal from office or employment for cause.

(a) Any county committee member, community committee member, delegate to the local administrative area convention or the county convention, an alternate to any such office, county executive director, or any other county employee who: Fails to perform the duties of office; commits or attempts, or conspires to commit fraud; is incompetent; impedes the effectiveness of any program administered in the county; violates the provisions of § 7.27 (e) or (f) of this part; refuses to carry out or fails to comply with the equal opportunity and civil rights, including the equal employment policy, or who interferes with others in carrying out such policy; or violates official instructions, shall be suspended from office or employment. Any person who is under formal investigation for any of the above-cited reasons may be suspended. The suspension action may be taken by the county executive director with respect to any other employee, or by the county committee or State committee with respect to the county executive director or any other county employee and by the State committee with respect to any county committee member, community committee member, delegate to the local administrative area convention or the county convention, or any alternate to any such office. Any person suspended shall be given a written statement of the reasons for such action and be allowed 15 days from the date of mailing of the notice of suspension in which to advise the county committee, or the State committee if it made the suspension, in writing, in person, or both, why such person should be restored to duty.

(b) The county committee or the county executive director, or the State committee if it made the suspension, following such further investigation as is deemed necessary shall restore to duty or remove the suspended person. The county committee or county executive director may not restore a sus-

pended person to duty without prior written approval of the State committee, and, if such approval is denied, shall promptly remove such person. Upon refusal or failure of the county committee or the county executive director to remove promptly the suspended person, the State committee shall remove such person. In the event further investigation develops reasons for the action taken, in addition to those disclosed in the suspension notice, the suspended person shall be given written notification of such additional reasons and allowed 15 days from the date of mailing of the notice of additional reasons for the suspension in which to advise why such person should be restored to duty. In the event a person under suspension submits a resignation, acceptance thereof shall not prevent a determination by the county committee or State committee that such person would have been removed had the person remained in the position. Such determination shall constitute removal within the meaning of §§ 7.27 (e) and 7.28(c) of this part. The person so removed shall be given written notification of any such determination and the reasons therefor.

(c) Any incumbent or former county committee member, community committee member, delegate to the local administrative area convention or the county convention, an alternate to any such office, county executive director, or any other county employee who during a term of employment: Fails or failed to perform the duties of employment; committed, attempted, or conspired to commit fraud; was incompetent; impeded the effectiveness of any program administered in the county; violated the provisions of § 7.27 (e) or (f) of this part; refused to carry out or failed to comply with the Department's policy relating to equal opportunity and civil rights, including the equal employment policy; or violated official instructions, may be disqualified for future service or employment by the State committee. Before any such disqualification determination is made, the State committee shall undertake such investigation as it deems necessary, after which the State committee shall give the affected person a