



U.S. Office of Special Counsel  
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## **OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL FILES COMPLAINT FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE EMPLOYEE FOR HATCH ACT VIOLATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, D.C./July 22, 2009 – On July 21, 2009, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) filed a complaint with the Merit Systems Protection Board requesting that an employee with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) be removed from her employment for violating the Hatch Act by being a candidate for public office in a partisan election.

OSC alleges that the employee was a candidate in the 2008 primary and general elections for Interior Township Clerk in Michigan. OSC also alleges that at the time of the employee's candidacy, she knew about the Hatch Act's restrictions on political activity.

The Hatch Act restricts the political activity of federal executive branch and USPS employees. The Act prohibits employees from using their official authority or influence to interfere with the result of an election; being candidates for public office in a partisan election; soliciting, accepting, or receiving political contributions; soliciting or discouraging the political activity of persons who have business pending before the employee's employing agency; and engaging in political activity while on duty, in a government office or building, while wearing an official uniform, or using a government vehicle. The penalty for violating the Hatch Act ranges from no less than a thirty day suspension to removal from employment.

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*OSC is an independent investigative and prosecutorial agency with jurisdiction to enforce the Hatch Act. OSC is authorized to provide advisory opinions on the Hatch Act and enforces the provisions of the Act by investigating allegations of violations and filing petitions for disciplinary action such as the one described above. For more information visit our web site at [www.osc.gov](http://www.osc.gov) or call 1 (800) 872-9855.*