



U.S. Office of Special Counsel
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 218
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

TWO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TO SERVE SUSPENSIONS FOR VIOLATING THE HATCH ACT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ann O'Hanlon, (202) 254-3631; aohanlon@osc.gov

WASHINGTON, D.C./August 17, 2012 –

Under settlement agreements with the Office of Special Counsel, two federal employees agreed to serve suspensions for violating the Hatch Act's prohibitions against engaging in political activity while on duty or in the federal workplace or soliciting political contributions.

The first, a technology specialist for the Social Security Administration, volunteered for a gubernatorial candidate's 2010 campaign. While on duty and in his federal office, the employee spent a significant amount of time coordinating volunteer efforts for the campaign. His activities included recruiting precinct captains, enlisting people to march in parades, organizing the distribution of yard signs and bumper stickers, and advising volunteers on how to host campaign events. In addition, the employee hosted a fundraiser for another partisan political candidate. He invited over 50 people to the event and asked two individuals to contribute \$250. The employee will be suspended for 180 days without pay.

The other employee, a contracting officer for the General Services Administration, will serve a 30-day suspension without pay for inviting-- from her government office and while on duty -- 23 people to an Obama fundraiser during the 2007-2008 campaign cycle. She also distributed Obama campaign material in the workplace and sent an e-mail from her government e-mail account supporting his Presidential campaign.

The Hatch Act restricts the political activity of individuals employed or holding office in the executive branch of the federal government. An employee covered by the Act may not, among other things, engage in political activity while on duty or in a federal building or knowingly solicit, accept, or receive political contributions.

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency. Our basic authorities come from four federal statutes: the Civil Service Reform Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Hatch Act, and the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). OSC's primary mission is to safeguard the merit system by protecting federal employees and applicants from prohibited personnel practices, especially reprisal for whistleblowing. For more information, please visit our website at www.osc.gov.