



ADVISORY OPINIONS

AO1: FACEBOOK GROUPS AND GUIDELINES The 2010 Joint Elections Committee Charter places a number of limitations on a candidate's use of Facebook. The following should provide guidance to candidates as they create and use Facebook groups in furtherance of their campaigns.

WHAT'S ALLOWED:

- Candidates are permitted to create Facebook groups to support their campaigns.
- Candidates are permitted to include any campaign material they wish on these groups.
- Candidates are permitted to make these groups "public" so that Facebook users can find them via Facebook's search function.
- Candidates are permitted to allow supporters to join their campaign groups.
- Candidates are permitted to send Facebook messages and other electronic communications to group members.

WHAT'S PROHIBITED:

- Candidates may **not** invite people to join their campaign group, as this will generate an unsolicited e-mail communication.
- Candidates may **not** allow other members of their campaign group to invite people to join the group. It is irrelevant whether the person sending the invitation is part of the official campaign staff; a candidate will be held responsible for any action taken by any member of a Facebook group.

JEC RECOMMENDATIONS:

- We recommend disabling the ability for group members to send group invitations.
- We recommend limiting the number of administrators in the group in order to eliminate the likelihood that an unknowing group member will send a group invitation.
- We understand that it is difficult to build support when candidates are not permitted to invite people to join their Facebook groups. We recommend that candidates promote their Facebook groups by including links to their group on their websites or by including links or other information about the Facebook group on other lawful campaign material.

Please note that the above list is meant solely to aid candidates in the use of Facebook groups. This additional rule is not a comprehensive list of possible Facebook violations, nor does it limit the scope of JEC Charter Rule 745(f) or any other JEC rule or regulation.

AO2: FACEBOOK WALL POSTS Posting campaign material, or links to campaign material, on another individual's Facebook wall does constitute the distribution of an electronic communication within the meaning of Rule 745(f).