

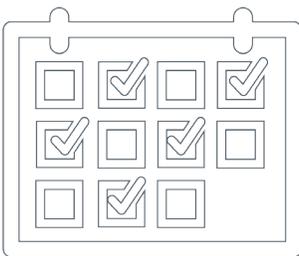
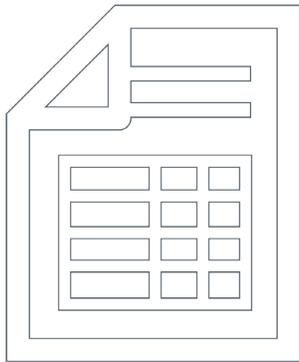
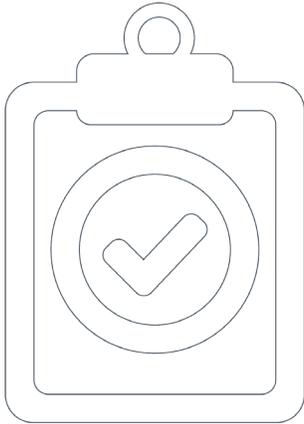


The Ultimate Guide to
**POLITICAL
INVOLVEMENT IN
YOUR NEW
COMMUNITY**



ARMY SPOUSE

VOICE FOR A SIMPLER PCS



In today's climate, there are very few corners of the world that are unaware of the current events in the political sphere and the new issues they bring to the top of the news cycle. With that in mind, many military spouses may feel compelled to get involved but are unsure of how to approach civic engagement while making sure they're following "the rules."

THE BASICS

- Can service members be politically active? Within limits, and only while "off-duty." There are laws in place preventing them from using their military affiliation to endorse a candidate or actively campaign while in uniform. Service members retain all their rights as private citizens, but must be careful to distinguish their opinions and actions as their own. Reach out to your JAG office if you're curious about where this line is drawn.
- But can spouses participate? YES. Lack of precedent within any traditionally conservative culture feeds into an unspoken rulebook of what you should and shouldn't do, but there are no hard laws against participation.
- Military family members are allowed to engage in political conversations, work on political campaigns, and write opinion pieces or editorials.
- It is not likely that military chain of command would discourage political involvement, with the exception of overseas diplomatic assignments.
- Families are prohibited from publicly endorsing candidates with signs, banners, or posters on the property of any military installation housing.

SHAPING YOUR POLITICAL PRESENCE

To avoid finding yourself in pointless arguments and the toxic whirlpool of online comment sections, take some time to formulate ideas, shape an informed stance, and engage in a manner that mirrors your ideals.

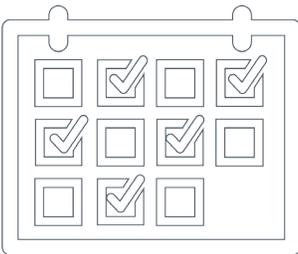
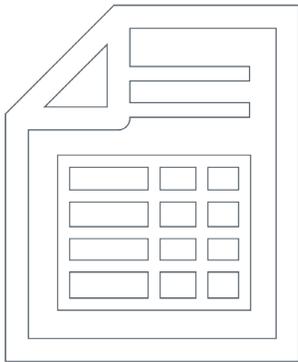
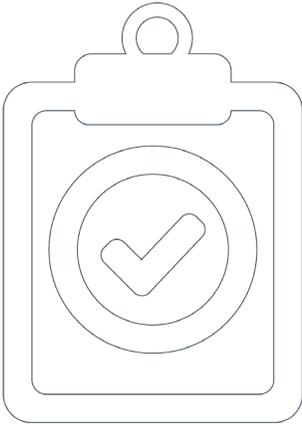
- Know your audience and how much to share.
- Frame political issues to match your values.
- When you hear misinformation, politely offer the facts.
- "Don't feed the trolls." You don't have to engage everyone who disagrees with you.

WAYS TO ENGAGE (PARTISAN AND NONPARTISAN)

- Educate yourself about the issues
- Call your elected officials, regularly
- Write letters to the Editor
- Responsibly share on social media
- Register voters
- Hold a voter registration event on base
- Volunteer as a Poll Worker
- Organize a Candidate Town Hall for a local election

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- Volunteer for a local campaign
- Speak as a military family member at a political event
- Run for office

RESOURCES

[AUSA Government Affairs](#)

[Homefront Progressives](#)

[Democrats Abroad](#)

[Republicans Overseas](#)

[Write a Letter to the Editor](#)

[Volunteer as a poll worker](#)

[Directive on Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces - 2008](#)

[US Army Election Year Guidance Memo, 2016](#)

[Army Social Media Guidance](#)

Like many aspects of the military, it might seem like there are a lot of rules to follow, but your voice is important, as are the causes and issues you want to champion. Make a list of issues of interest to you and [contact your legislators](#). AUSA's legislative agenda contains a focused [list of advocacy areas](#) and encourages you to reach out to representatives that will address your ideas and concerns.

THANKS FOR JOINING US.

Feel free to email us with any questions at pbarron@ausa.org. If we can't help, we'll find someone who will!

Become an AUSA member for additional resources and support. Learn more at ausa.org/membership.