

ORDINANCE NO. 12798

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE,  
PART II, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, DIVISION 12, SECTION  
2-193, RELATIVE TO POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. That Part II, Chattanooga City Code, Chapter 2, Article III, Division 12,  
Section 2-193 of the Chattanooga City Code is hereby amended by deleting same in its entirety  
and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

**Sec. 2-193. Running for public office.**

Employees are eligible to run for an elective office, including elective offices for the City  
of Chattanooga, so long as the employee adheres to the following provisions:

- (1) Federal law prohibits a city employee from running for an elective office if the employee's position or duties are connected with an activity financed in whole or in part by federal loans or grants, unless the election is nonpartisan.
- (2) Before officially filing, employees who seek to run for public office, with the exception of elected officials of the City of Chattanooga, shall give written notice to the employee's Department Director or Administrator stating the intention to seek elective office and the title of the elective office the employee will seek.
- (3) The employee's Department Director or Administrator holds the right to place the employee on a leave of absence if it is determined that the employee's candidacy does one or more of the following:
  - (a) interferes with the employee's assigned job duties and responsibilities;
  - (b) represents a conflict of interest;
  - (c) results in campaigning while on duty; or

- (d) results in a violation of the provisions of Section 2-192 of this Article.

If there is a question as to whether a conflict of interest exists, such matter shall be forwarded to Chief Ethics Officer for a recommendation to the employee's Administrator. In those instances in which a conflict is found to exist, the employee may appeal the decision as set forth in Section 2-174(t) of the Chattanooga City Code. If a conflict is found to exist, the employee shall be placed on leave of absence. If the employee wishes to continue receiving compensation when placed on leave of absence, the employee shall first use compensatory leave, then personal leave. When all accrued leave is finally exhausted, the employee may be placed on leave of absence without pay subject to the provisions of Section 2-163 of the City Code.

- (4) Should the employee be successful in acquiring the elective office sought, other than a City of Chattanooga elective office, the employee shall be allowed to continue City employment as long as the employee's elected responsibilities do not conflict with the employee's assigned job duties and responsibilities. The employee's Administrator shall decide whether such a conflict exists. If the Administrator determines that a conflict exists, the employee shall decide within fifteen (15) days from the date of such determination whether to retain employment with the City or serve in his or her elected position. In those instances in which the conflict results in a dismissal of the employee, the employee may appeal the decision as set forth in Section 2-174(t) of the Chattanooga City Code.
- (5) Should problems arise in the matter of City employees seeking elective office that are not defined in this section, the matter shall be presented to the employee's Administrator for resolution.
- (6) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to be inconsistent with any applicable state or federal statute or regulation that may provide otherwise, and this section shall be supplemental to any such applicable state or federal regulation or statute.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance shall take effect within two (2) weeks from its passage.

Passed on second and final reading: February 4, 2014

Yusuf Hakeem  
CHAIRPERSON

APPROVED:  DISAPPROVED:

M. J. K.  
MAYOR

WAH/VLM/mms