

48.025 Local, state, and federal tax dollars and resources not to be used to advocate for or against public question on ballot -- Penalties -- Exemptions. (Effective July 15, 2026)

- (1) As used in this section:
 - (a) "Local" means and includes any city, county, urban-county government, consolidated local government, unified local government, charter county government, school district, or special district; and
 - (b) "Resources" means any:
 1. Moneys appropriated by the General Assembly;
 2. Items of value, facilities, materials, and other physical resources derived from local, state, or federal tax dollars, including but not limited to computers, copiers, printers, paper, office supplies, and buildings;
 3. Digital resources derived from or supported by local, state, or federal tax dollars, including but not limited to any official website, email account, or social media account;
 4. Classified and unclassified employees, and other human resources within the scope of their state employment; or
 5. Employees and other human resources within the scope of their school district employment; and
 - (c) "School district" means any:
 1. County school district as defined in KRS 160.010;
 2. Independent school district as defined in KRS 160.020; or
 3. Regional educational cooperative organization formed by local boards of education or other public educational institutions listed in KRS 161.220(4), for the purpose of providing educational services to the participating organizations.
- (2) Local, state, and federal tax dollars and resources shall not be used to advocate for or against any public question that appears on the ballot.
- (3) Any person who violates subsection (2) of this section shall be:
 - (a) Fined five hundred dollars (\$500) for the first offense;
 - (b) Fined one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the second offense; and
 - (c) Guilty of a Class A misdemeanor and fined one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each subsequent offense.
- (4) This section shall not prohibit a public employee who is not otherwise prohibited under another provision of law from advocating for or against a public question appearing on the ballot on his or her personal time using nongovernment resources.
- (5) This section shall not apply to:
 - (a) Educational television operating in accordance with KRS Chapter 168, so long as equal opportunity is given to both sides of the public question; or
 - (b) An association advocating for or against a ballot initiative that directly applies to its members, so long as no funds authorized or appropriated by local, state, or federal tax dollars or resources are expended for that purpose.

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History: Amended 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 155, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2026. -- Created
2021 Ky. Acts ch. 197, sec. 73, effective June 29, 2021.