### § 1502. Influencing elections; taking part in political campaigns; prohibitions; exceptions

(a) A State or local officer or employee may not—

(1) use his official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election or a nomination for office;

(2) directly or indirectly coerce, attempt to coerce, command, or advise a State or local officer or employee to pay, lend, or contribute anything of value to a party, committee, organization, agency, or person for political purposes; or

(3) be a candidate for elective office.

(b) A State or local officer or employee retains the right to vote as he chooses and to express his opinions on political subjects and candidates.

(c) Subsection (a)(3) of this section does not apply to—

(1) the Governor or Lieutenant Governor of a State or an individual authorized by law to act as Governor;

(2) the mayor of a city;

(3) a duly elected head of an executive department of a State or municipality who is not classified under a State or municipal merit or civil-service system; or

(4) an individual holding elective office.

(Pub. L. 89–554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 404; Pub. L. 93–443, title IV, § 401(a), Oct. 15, 1974, 88 Stat. 1290.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| *Derivation* | *U.S. Code* | *Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large* |
|---|---|---|
| ..... | 5 U.S.C. 118k(a) (less 1st 41 words). | July 19, 1940, ch. 640, § 4 "Sec. 12(a) (less 1st 41 words)". 54 Stat. 767. |

In subsection (a), the term "State or local officer or employee", defined in section 1501, is substituted for the first 41 words of former section 118k(a). The words "any part of his salary or compensation" are omitted as included in "anything of value".

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

AMENDMENTS

1974—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 93–443 substituted "be a candidate for elective office" for "take an active part in political management or in political campaigns".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1974 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93–443 effective Jan. 1, 1975, see section 410(a) of Pub. L. 93–443, set out as a note under section 431 of Title 2, The Congress.

### § 1503. Nonpartisan candidacies permitted

Section 1502(a)(3) of this title does not prohibit any State or local officer or employee from being a candidate in any election if none of the candidates is to be nominated or elected at such election as representing a party any of whose candidates for Presidential elector received votes in the last preceding election at which Presidential electors were selected.

(Pub. L. 89–554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 404; Pub. L. 93–443, title IV, § 401(b)(1), Oct. 15, 1974, 88 Stat. 1290.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| *Derivation* | *U.S. Code* | *Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large* |
|---|---|---|
| ..... | 5 U.S.C. 118n (as applicable to 5 U.S.C. 118k(a)). | July 19, 1940, ch. 640, § 4 "Sec. 18 (as applicable to § 12 of the Act of Aug. 2, 1939; added July 19, 1940, ch. 640, § 4, 54 Stat. 767)". 54 Stat. 772. |

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

AMENDMENTS

1974—Pub. L. 93–443 substituted "candidacies" for "political activity" in section catchline and provision permitting nonpartisan candidacies for prior provision permitting political activity in connection with (1) an election and the preceding campaign if none of the candidates was to be nominated or elected at that election as representing a party any of whose candidates for presidential elector received votes in the last preceding election at which presidential electors were selected, or (2) a question which was not specifically identified with a National or State political party and deeming questions relating to constitutional amendments, referendums, approval of municipal ordinances, and others of a similar character as not specifically identified with a National or State political party.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1974 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93–443 effective Jan. 1, 1975, see section 410(a) of Pub. L. 93–443, set out as a note under section 431 of Title 2, The Congress.

### § 1504. Investigations; notice of hearing

When a Federal agency charged with the duty of making a loan or grant of funds of the United States for use in an activity by a State or local officer or employee has reason to believe that the officer or employee has violated section 1502 of this title, it shall report the matter to the Special Counsel. On receipt of the report or on receipt of other information which seems to the Special Counsel to warrant an investigation, the Special Counsel shall investigate the report and such other information and present his findings and any charges based on such findings to the Merit Systems Protection Board, which shall—

(1) fix a time and place for a hearing; and

(2) send, by registered or certified mail, to the officer or employee charged with the violation and to the State or local agency employing him a notice setting forth a summary of the alleged violation and giving the time and place of the hearing.

The hearing may not be held earlier than 10 days after the mailing of the notice.

(Pub. L. 89–554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 405; Pub. L. 95–454, title IX, § 906(a)(7), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1225.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| *Derivation* | *U.S. Code* | *Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large* |
|---|---|---|
| ..... | 5 U.S.C. 118k(b) (1st and 2d sentences, and 4th through 17th words of 3d sentence). | July 19, 1940, ch. 640 § 4 "Sec. 12(b) (1st and 2d sentences, and 4th through 17th words of 3d sentence)", 54 Stat. 768. June 11, 1960, Pub. L. 86–507, § 1(1), 74 Stat. 200. |