

INFORMAL OPINION IO-1997-001
ISSUED FEBRUARY 11, 1997

You have asked whether vocational technical education employees are covered by the restricted political activity provisions of the Constitutional Ethics Rules [Section 257:1-1-1 et seq. of the Rules of the Ethics Commission, 74 O.S. Supp.1996, Ch. 62, App.]. Political restrictions in Section 10-1-4 apply only to classified state employees. Although employees of counties, higher education, vocational education, and primary/secondary schools are paid by the state, they are not employees within the state merit system of employment; therefore, they are not classified, and political restrictions do not apply to them.

Please be aware that informal opinions are not official pronouncements of the Commission. Hence, this letter carries no greater weight than the views of any other citizen. The Commission is available to issue interpretations on matters arising from the Constitutional Ethics Rules and the Political Subdivisions Ethics Act. These are known as Ethics Interpretations. They are official and bind the future action of the Commission.