**Board of Directors Policies**

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| **Policy Number**: 111 | **Subject:** Political Activities |
| **Review Date:** 10/27/2026 | **Previous Version:** 11/18/2025 |

## OBJECTIVE

To establish policies regarding political activities and donations by the Board of Directors (Board) and or Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Board of Directors and CEO

## POLICY

1. **Political Activities.**

   a. **Permitted Political Activities.**

      i. **Political Positions.** The Board and/or CEO may take positions on federal, state, or local laws or regulations that the Board or CEO in their discretion decide are in the best interests of DMEA and its members.

      ii. **Political Activities.** Directors and the CEO are free, in their individual capacities and not as representatives of DMEA, to participate in the campaign of any individual candidate or to support ballot or other political issues of their choice whether or not they believe it aligns with the interest(s) of DMEA.

      iii. **Third-Party Representatives.** DMEA may utilize the efforts of designated trade organizations, lobbyists and/or other advocates to represent DMEA with regulators, elected officials, and others.

   b. **Prohibited Political Activities.**

      i. **Partisan Positions.** DMEA shall be non-partisan in political matters.

      ii. **Political Activities.** Neither Directors nor the CEO may engage in partisan political activities as representatives of DMEA and should avoid the appearance of acting as a representative of DMEA when conducting such activities. Even when acting in their individual capacities, Directors and the CEO should exercise discretion so as not to convey any

impression to the public or to a candidate that DMEA is endorsing a candidate or a particular partisan issue. If there is potential for confusion, the Board should include a disclaimer that opinions expressed are personal and not those of DMEA. No DMEA resources shall be used for partisan political activities.

iii. **Logo, Apparel and Resources.** Neither Directors nor the CEO shall campaign for, or against, any individual candidate or elected official while wearing DMEA apparel or utilizing any asset or resource that includes the DMEA logo (i.e., stationery, computers, or vehicles owned by DMEA). DMEA may offer logo items to elected officials and/or staff within their official capacities. DMEA may also expend incidental resources for elected officials and/or staff while representing DMEA and/or industry business issues (e.g., meals, beverages, accompanying transportation, etc.).

iv. **RUS Funds.** DMEA may not expend Rural Utilities Services (RUS) funds on any political activities.

2. **Political Contributions.**

a. **Permitted Political Contributions.** Directors and the CEO may make political donations to political action committees, individual candidates or elected officials in their individual capacities regardless of whether they believe it aligns with the best interests of DMEA. DMEA may make political contributions to causes or advocacy groups that the Board or CEO, as applicable, decides are in the best interests of DMEA and its members ("**Permitted Contributions**"). The CEO may review and approve or reject Permitted Contributions up to $5,000. The Board shall review and approve or reject any Permitted Contribution over $5,000.

b. **Prohibited Political Donations.** DMEA shall not make political donations that are intended to influence the selection, nomination, election, appointment, or defeat of candidates for public office.

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Stacia Cannon
Board of Directors President

10/27/26
Date