

## *The Hatch Act*

The Hatch Act was reformed in 1993 to allow federal employees to participate more fully in the political process, but only on their own time and away from the worksite. As a result of reform, most government employees can now attend and be active at political rallies and meetings, sign nomination petitions, campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections, distribute campaign literature in partisan elections and even hold office in political clubs or parties.

However, some federal agencies and categories of employees continue to be prohibited from engaging in partisan political activities. [The U.S. Office of Special Counsel](#) provides important information on its web site on the Do's and Don'ts of the Hatch Act, as well as frequently-asked-questions and a list of agencies/employees that are not allowed to engage in partisan activities.