

## VIRGINIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

***TITLE: Political Advocacy***

**POLICY NUMBER: S043**

### **Policy Statement:**

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) will under no circumstances request students to advocate or endorse, nor to convey or deliver materials which advocate or endorse the election or defeat of any candidate seeking public office; the passage or defeat of any referendum question; the passage or defeat of any measure pending before a local school board, local governing body, the General Assembly, or Congress as per § 22.1-79.3 of the *Code of Virginia*.

### **Procedure:**

1. The VSDB will ensure students are not asked, required, or in any way coerced to advocate any political statement, policy, position, or candidate. While classroom instruction may still include discussion and use of political or issue-oriented materials as part of classroom activities and instruction, materials will be presented in a strictly educational environment and will not be presented to advocate or endorse, nor will any students be requested to advocate, endorse, or distribute any materials presented.
2. The VSDB curriculum is designed to educate students regarding the political process so they can make informed decisions, and will not infer any personal views of staff to influence students nor require students to endorse or advocate any particular views, statements, referendums, candidates or measures pending.

***Rescission:*** Revised: November 2010; Revised: December 12, 2018

BOV Approved: December 12, 2018