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OBAMA AND MCCAIN SUPPORTERS JOIN IN CLASS ACTION CITY EMPLOYEES SEEK RIGHT TO BE POLITICALLY ACTIVE

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Cincinnati, Ohio. A class action lawsuit was filed today by employees of the City of Cincinnati seeking the right to donate funds to and distribute campaign literature for federal, state and county candidates for political office. They seek to act as private individuals, away from work and on their own time. The City of Cincinnati refuses to let them engage in these activities.

Yesterday, following a warning from attorney Al Gerhardstein, the City of Cincinnati did ease its restrictions to permit employees to make campaign contributions to candidates for President and permit them to distribute literature in nonpartisan campaigns. All other restrictions on employee political activity remained in place.

Police officers Keith Fangman, a John McCain supporter and Paul D. Graves, Jr., an Obama supporter, are not satisfied with the amended rules. Gerhardstein said,

“These public servants are entitled to some political voice. Permitting contributions to and literature distribution for *federal, state and county* candidates will not interfere with *city* government. None of these candidates if elected will supervise the daily work of these city workers.”

Keith Fangman added, “I support McCain and in my private life I should be able to give a flyer to my friends listing his accomplishments. Graves said, “Senator O’Bama is about to make history and I will not be muzzled about him when I am off duty and away from work.”

The lawsuit was filed in United States District Court in Cincinnati. A temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction against the city has been requested.