



*The 2016 election season has arrived and with it, private aircraft owners have a unique opportunity to contribute more than a completed ballot, and accept more than a campaign promise. FARs Part 91 generally prohibits an aircraft operator from charging for flights, however: section 91.321 provides an exception for operators providing flights to political candidates.*

*Understanding the rules and regulations established by the Federal Election Commission "FEC" will help inform your decision to get involved and receive compensation for your political efforts. Keep reading to learn which political candidates qualify, pricing and payment and additional points for consideration:*



A candidate at the Federal Level is an individual who seeks nomination for election, or election to federal office. The rules for the exact time a person becomes a candidate differs at the federal, state, and local levels. In certain situations, the aircraft operator may be allowed to provide flights for the candidate's agents or other persons traveling on the candidate's behalf.

When carrying candidates, their agents or

## WHAT'S THE PRICE FOR FLIGHT?

qualifying representatives, any compensation must be made to the aircraft operator. The FEC controls the amounts that can be charged for a federal candidate's flight, and those amounts vary depending upon the office sought. State and local laws dictate the allowable amount of flight charges for the remainder of candidates.

## NON-PARTISAN CONSIDERATIONS!

- Aircraft owned by Presidential, Senate or House candidates and/or immediate family members are exempt from the requirements described above.
- Air carriers and commercial aircraft operators do not qualify for the 91.321 exception.
- If carrying multiple candidates or their agents, the charges must be distributed to each candidate on a pro-rata basis.
- Providing flights to political candidates will likely trigger tax implications, including Federal Excise Tax.

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