



**t o t a l**  
s t a f f i n g s o l u t i o n s

## Office Politics

By: Reem El-Khatib, ASA

Although political discussion in the workplace has long been considered taboo, many employees are talking about the 2008 presidential candidates and campaigns in the office, according to a recent Workplace Insights survey by ASA member Adecco USA.

Feelings about the appropriateness of political talk are almost evenly split: 50% of the more than 1,800 American workers polled reported that they do discuss politics in the office, 47% listen and keep their views to themselves, and 3% said they don't know.

Most polled workers (62%) said they don't know which candidates their co-workers support.

Adecco's Bernadette Kenny suggests that employees involved in political discussions remember to keep the conversations professional and not personal, respect all viewpoints, and excuse themselves if the exchange becomes uncomfortable.

"Being politically correct at the office means communicating carefully and inclusively when politics is on the agenda," says Kenny. "It's important to leave the more heated debates outside of the office to keep things professional."

That is especially important during a particularly absorbing political season—such as the 2008 presidential primaries. "We need to be aware that our opinions on key political issues and the candidates can affect how we're viewed at the office by our managers and peers," says Kenny. Adecco reports that 39% of polled employees said knowing the boss's candidate of choice affected their perception of their manager. Kenny adds, "That can last long after the last votes have been tallied."

© 2008 by the American Staffing Association, 277 S. Washington St., Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314-3675, 703-253-2020, fax 703-253-2053, [americanstaffing.net](http://americanstaffing.net)

---

### Naperville Office

4 S 100 Route 59 Unit 17  
Naperville, IL 60563  
Phone (630) 836-2200  
Fax (630) 836-2981  
Payroll Fax 836-2206

### Alsip Office

3837 W. 127<sup>th</sup> Street  
Alsip, IL 60803  
Phone (708) 388-9500  
Fax (708) 388-8725

### Bridgeport Office

3148 S. Ashland Ave  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Phone (773) 927-5100  
Fax (773) 927-9320

### Wood Dale Office

350 Georgetown Sq  
Wood Dale, IL 60191  
Phone (630) 766-9900  
Fax (630) 766-8611

### Carol Stream Office

150 N Gary Ave  
Carol Stream, IL 60188  
Phone (630) 221-8100  
Fax (630) 221-8120