



U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL  
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 218  
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505  
202-804-7000

September 26, 2024

Mr. John B. Gordon  
Superintendent  
Suffolk Public Schools  
100 N. Main Street  
Suffolk, VA 23434

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: johngordon@spsk12.net

Re: OSC File No. HA-24-000426

Dear Mr. Gordon:

This letter is in response to complaints filed with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) alleging that, as Superintendent of Suffolk Public Schools, you violated the Hatch Act by attempting to use your position as Superintendent to influence the outcome of a local school board election. As explained below, OSC has concluded that you are not covered by the Hatch Act, and we are closing our file in this matter without further action.

The Hatch Act applies to certain state and local government employees who are principally employed by state, county, or municipal executive agencies in connection with programs financed in whole or in part by loans or grants made by the United States or a federal agency.<sup>1</sup> However, the law does not apply to individuals employed by educational or research institutions, establishments, systems, or agencies that are supported in whole or in part by state or political subdivisions thereof, the District of Columbia, or by recognized religious, philanthropic, or cultural organizations.<sup>2</sup>

Thus, as Superintendent of Suffolk Public Schools, you are not covered by the provisions of the Hatch Act. Accordingly, even if true, your alleged activity did not violate the Hatch Act, and we are closing our file in this matter without further action. Please contact me at (202) 804-7054 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erica S. Hamrick".

Erica S. Hamrick  
Deputy Chief, Hatch Act Unit

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<sup>1</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 1501(4).

<sup>2</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 1501(4)(B).