Grant County Fire Protection District 3

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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1. NUMBER: 1.1.09

2. SUBJECT: ***Political Activities and Lobbying***

3. POLICY: It is the policy of the District to allow District personnel to participate in political or partisan activities of their choosing provided that District resources and property are not utilized, and the activity does not adversely affect the responsibilities of the personnel in their positions.

   The District does not desire to have its Commissioners or employees engage in any lobbying activity that would necessitate registration or reporting by the individual or the District, unless said activities are done by the employee or commissioner solely as a private citizen, not compensated by the District or acting in any official capacity. Therefore, lobbying activities upon the District's behalf shall be limited to those listed in this Policy and Procedure.

4. SCOPE: This Policy and Procedure is applicable to all personnel of Grant County Fire District 3.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES:
   A. The District Fire Chief is responsible for ensuring that this Policy and Procedure is adhered to.

   B. All personnel are responsible for complying with this Policy and Procedure.

6. PROCEDURE:

   A. District personnel may not campaign on District time or in a District uniform or while representing the District in any way. District personnel may not allow others to use District facilities or funds for political activities.

   B. Any District personnel who meets with or may be observed by the public or otherwise represents the District to the public, while performing his/her regular duties may not wear or display any button, badge or sticker relevant to any candidate or ballot issue during working hours. District personnel shall not solicit, on District property or District time, for a contribution for a partisan political cause.

   C. Except as noted in this Policy and Procedure, District personnel are otherwise free to fully exercise their constitutional First Amendments Rights.

D. District facilities may not be used for political activities. This provision shall not prohibit the use of District facilities as a polling place, with prior approval by the Board of Commissioners.

Regarding lobbying activities:

E. Personnel may make appearances before public sessions or public hearings of legislative committees or rule making authorities, when the party only appears to monitor or observe testimony or debate.

F. Personnel may make written correspondence and telephone conversations with legislators.

G. In person lobbying by one or more representatives of the district no more than four days or part thereof in any three-month period in aggregate for all officials and employees of the District is permitted. No public funds shall be spent on the legislator and no more than $15.00 per quarter of non-public funds shall be spent on behalf of any one or more members of the legislature or state elected officials or public officers or employees of the State of Washington.

H. Lobbying shall only occur where authorized by the Board of Commissioners and in furtherance of the District's position on any issue.