

Why you should be Involved in Politics?

● Collective bargaining agreements, wages, benefits and job security are negotiated and/or overseen by elected officials. **In order to protect your best interests**, you must be involved with electing these representatives-especially in the current fiscal environment where public employees are being increasingly targeted by politicians bent on layoffs, cutbacks and downsizing.

Why should you give politicians money?

● You need to make sure that the pro-FOP, pro-labor politicians win. Remember, as a public employee, you ultimately have the power to hire and fire your boss at election time. When you win on Election Day, you win at the bargaining table.

Political Activity

- Lobbying
- Getting members to vote
- Getting members to live in jurisdiction
- Running members for public office
- Political Endorsement Process
- Political Action Funds

Run members for public office

- Check laws
- Some states allow active officers to hold elected public office

Political Endorsement Process

● **The FOP name is your most important asset**

- Do not give your name without exercising due diligence
- Be fair
- Be honest

● Keep file on all public officials

- Biography
- Press clippings
- Public statements
- Commitments made to your lodge
- Record interactions with official

● Form a Political Screening Committee

- Make sure members are unbiased
- Make sure members are informed of the issues

- Determine which races in which your lodge will endorse
- Be consistent from election to election

- Interview all candidates

- Ask same questions of each candidate for the same office
- Ask follow up questions if their answer raises an issue or you are unclear on their position
- Understand the rules they must comply with, i.e. judges
- Ask questions particular to the interviewees background

- Make an endorsement

- Work to elect your endorsed candidate

- Hand out literature
- Walk in parades
- Make public appearances with candidate
- Give Political Action Fund contributions
- Get out the vote campaigns
- Phone calls
- Rides to voting locations
- Get your members to vote and support your endorsement

- Send congratulations letter to all winning candidates

- If your candidate wins, work closely with that official

- If your candidate does not win, contact new official

- offer to work with them

- If they support your issues they should be able to earn your endorsement next time.

Become a political force in your community

Educate Members on Political Action

- PAC FUND, a voluntary political action fund that supports your political and legislative activities. PAC contributions are used to support grassroots lobbying efforts and help elect local, state and federal candidates who support the collective bargaining agreements, issues and concerns of your members.

- Why should you contribute?**

Every day, politicians make decisions that affect your members, and one of the most effective ways to build a coalition of political power is to put your dollars together to help elect candidates who will aggressively support and promote your legislative agenda.

When politicians you endorse win on Election Day, you all win at the bargaining table.

PAC Funds

- Separate fund from General Fund

- See local and state reporting requirements