

GGFYP Board of Directors Guidance for Political Involvement

The members and the corporate sponsors of GGFYP all have very different political interests and opinions. This political diversity among our members and corporate sponsors is great asset for our organization and creates an organization that is dynamic and always progressing. GGFYP involvement into the political arena must be treated with the utmost fairness to all sides.

GGFYP strongly supports our members to become active participants in the political process within our community, county, state and nation. The role of GGFYP in the political arena is to encourage our members to be active in the process and to also educate our members about the current candidates and issues that affect us.

The following guidance is offered to the GGFYP Board of Directors as a means of determining the best course of action when confronted with the involvement of GGFYP in the political arena.

- GGFYP will not endorse a political candidate.
- GGFYP will not endorse a specific political issue or special interest group unless, in extreme cases, the Board of Directors votes that this issue directly affects the members of our organization. It is stressed that this can only be done in extreme cases.
- GGFYP will only host a political event (e.g. debates, town-hall meetings, general discussions) if all sides are equally represented. This may involve more than one event.
- Our signature events (e.g. Lunch N Learn) are a great way to educate our members about local issues. GGFYP will attempt to present all sides to an issue that is discussed. If necessary, more than one event will be scheduled to present all sides.
- GGFYP may publicize to our members when and where political events are taking place within our community. GGFYP will not purposefully publicize for only one candidate or one side of an issue. Care will be given to publicize equally for all sides.
- GGFYP welcomes in-office political representatives to speak to our members. Care must be given to keep this discussion encouraging to our members and/or informing our members about current issues that directly affect us. Campaigning or lobbying one side of a topic by the political representative will not be allowed.
- When requested, members of the GGFYP Board of Directors may meet with individuals in order to provide the perspective (views and concerns) of GGFYP members. It would be preferred that more than one member of the Board attend the meeting, when possible. The Board members who participate in the meeting need to promote the perspective of the members of GGFYP in general.
- GGFYP always encourages individual members and corporate sponsors to speak their mind and give their opinion in the political arena. Individual opinions do not represent the opinion of the GGFYP organization.

- Election and campaigning years present an especially difficult challenge in the political involvement decision process. An effort must be made to continue to educate our members about the political candidates and issues but to not give preference to one candidate or issue.
 - o The above guidance will be used during an election or campaigning year but extra care should be given to present all candidates or sides of the issue.
 - o The GF Vote website will be especially valuable during election and campaigning years as a non-partisan launching point to educate our members about the candidates and issues.
- The GGFYP Board of Directors has the final authority as to the involvement of our organization into the political arena.