THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 27, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN 2008 ELECTION CYCLE

The 2008 election cycle will present many opportunities for federal employees to be involved in the political process, either through their own initiative or through outreach from campaigns. The decision about whether to engage in political activity in one's free time of course belongs to each individual employee. However, in order to ensure that those federal employees who choose to participate in political activity do so in accordance with the high ethical standards the President expects, we urge each department or agency by the end of 2007 to provide a briefing to its employees on the requirements of the Hatch Act, and your department/agency's particular policies governing political activities by its employees.

The White House Counsel's Office is completing a series of briefings for the White House staff on appropriate political activity, which was presented as part of our annual ethics training. Whether or not you follow that model, I urge you to consult with your General Counsel about preparing a briefing on political activity that meets the needs of your particular organization. If, after consulting with your General Counsel, there are any questions about the parameters of such a briefing, please contact Scott Coffina of my office, at 202-456-7361.

cc: Department/Agency General Counsels
Designated Agency Ethics Officials

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