

Town of Wright Fire District Policies

Policy Name: **18.0 Election of Fire Commissioners**

Date Adopted: 1/7/14

Effective: Immediately

Revised:

Reviewed: *Annually*

Outline of the Wright Fire District

- The District and its boundaries are set by a process followed by the Town Board at its inception and is a New York State governmental entity with five publicly elected representatives.
- The boundaries of the Wright Fire District are the same as the Town of Wright.
- Commissioners receive no compensation for their work.
- A Commissioner is elected by the residents of the Town and serves a 5 year term. In the event of a vacancy, the Board may appoint a Commissioner who will then run for election at the next election.
- Elections are held the second Tuesday of November.
- The Board's responsibilities are laid out in Town Law, General Municipal Law and other statutes, and the district has the legal authority to tax the residents of the district with the express purpose of providing fire protection and allied emergency services. The Board's responsibility is to govern the fire district, set policy, address budgetary and legal issues related to providing fire protection, purchase of equipment and to develop policies, rules and regulations to guide members of the fire company. In short, it is the administrative and fiscal oversight of the Gallupville Fire Department. The Department provides the people and training, and the District owns the equipment and sets policy.
- District funding is raised through taxes, Company money is raised through donations. The Fire District approves all new members and the fire chiefs who are elected by the members of the Fire Company but are governed by the Fire District. A fire chief cannot be a Commissioner; it would be a conflict of interest.
- For the actual definition of fire commissioners you can refer to the New York State Town Law Section 176.

Specific Requirements of a Wright Fire District Commissioner

1. Commissioner must live within the District
2. Commissioner should have basic knowledge of contracts, policies and fiscal oversight
3. Terms shall be for 5 years.

4. All candidates are to file their names and addresses with the District Secretary in order to appear on the ballot. At the time of filing they should pick up a petition. Petitions will contain the name of candidate, position, and term.
5. Twenty signatures must be obtained on the petition from legal residents of the Town of Wright to appear on the ballot.
6. Petitions may be circulated no earlier than the date of the public Budget Hearing (usually the third Tuesday in October) and must be returned to the District Secretary no later than 20 days prior to election.
7. Upon being elected or re-elected each commissioner shall attend the required training as prescribed by Town Law within 270 days and shall sign the oath of office as prescribed by the NYS Public Officers Law and file with the Town Clerk within 30 days.