



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

April 29, 2024

Dear Oregon State Fire Fighter Council member:

Attached is our 2024 Primary Election endorsement list. These recommendations were based on the candidate's responses, voting record and research on the issues that are important to all Oregon Fire Fighters. The following candidates can articulate their support and advocacy on our "Big 5": issues of wages, hours, working conditions, safety, and retirement security.

This April, OSFFC bi-annual convention convened in Hillsboro to discuss the priorities of the council, which is reflected in the legislative agenda that we will be working on during the 2025 and 2026 sessions. These priorities include retirement security, correcting discrepancies within workers compensation and PERS, apprenticeship funding for paramedics and firefighters, and working on PFAS related issues.

During the 2022 OSFFC convention, it was clear that extending the workback provisions, improving PERS retirement benefits, and funding of the apprenticeship program. Since that time, the OSFFC has:

- Extended workback until 2035.
- Reduced retirement age from 60 to 55 for those that didn't have 25 years of service.
- Funded the firefighter apprenticeship program.
- Got employee pick up (6%) added to final average calculations.
- Fixed 60-month window at the end of a career so that if you had to take leave during this period your multiplier didn't go down to 1.5% as a general service PERS member.

This is a great list of accomplishments, and it couldn't have been done without the support of those elected officials that listened to the voices of the firefighters and agreed that our issues should be addressed and become state law. Those that supported us on these issues are listed on the endorsement list that is attached.

Please take note that we have some key races that we would like your support in.

1. House District 12: Charlie Conrad, Republican from Springfield. His door has always been open, and he has had the backs of the firefighters when we needed him.
2. House District 8: Lisa Fragala, Democrat from Eugene. This seat is open as Paul Holvey decided not to run for re-election. She is committed to our issues and will be an advocate for firefighters in the legislature.
3. House District 57: Greg Smith, Republican from Wasco County. Greg is a long-time legislator who votes with his conscience and doing the right thing. Those votes have aligned with the firefighters, and we are asking for your support in this race.
4. Senate District 1: David Brock Smith, Republican from the Southern Coast/Roseburg area. Smith has also voted with the mind set of doing what is right, and that has aligned with the OSFFC.



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These four races will be done in the primary when ballots are counted on Tuesday, May 21. If you would like to assist in their campaigns, please contact alanf@osffc.org. We have a couple of days available for this—again, I cannot tell you how important these races are for the OSFFC and that these are the elected officials that have had our back and now it is time to have theirs.

We know voting is a personal matter. Your vote matters and your influence on those around you is significant. Our families need to know how the candidates and measures effect our livelihood. Please share our endorsements with them.

Your involvement in the political process and support of the OSFFC is essential to maintain our profession as a viable career for years to come. We truly are in this together, we cannot do this alone. We would like to thank you for your commitment and participation in this and every election. If your Senate or House District is not listed, the OSFFC did not take a position on that race.

Please contact me, Karl, or your District Vice-President if you have any questions.

In Solidarity,

Alan Ferschweiler
Legislative Director

Karl Koenig
President