



**Uniformed
Professional Fire Fighters Association
Of Connecticut**

2010 QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICE

Candidate's Name: _____
Office Sought: _____ District: _____
Committee Name: _____
Committee Treasurer: _____
Committee Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone number: _____ Party Affiliation: _____

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) chartered the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut (U.P.F.F.A. of CT) in 1946. Presently, the U.P.F.F.A. of CT represents more than 60 local unions of the IAFF in Connecticut, more than 4,000 union Fire Fighters. The Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association, affiliated with the Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations of Connecticut, advocates fire service interests before the legislature.

Professional Fire Fighters realize we cannot provide for the safety of our citizens alone. We need strong advocates for our life saving work at all levels of government. We are committed to supporting candidates for office who share our commitment to the Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) protection of the public.

This section poses the questions. The questions are designed to elicit your position on our issues. The second section presents background information regarding the questions. Please answer the questions and make the effort to understand our issues.

Please return the completed questionnaire no later than **September 23, 2010** to:

U.P.F.F.A. of Connecticut
30 Sherman Street,
West Hartford, CT 06110
Attention: Paul J. Rapanault

Or fax to 860-953-3334

Should you have questions or if you need clarification, please call:

Paul J. Rapanault
Director of Legislative and Political Affairs
Cell: 203-934-0105 or e-mail: paulrap@upffa.org

UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

2010 STATE LEGISLATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate's Name _____ Office Sought _____ District # _____

(Please CIRCLE appropriate answer for ALL 10 QUESTIONS)

1. In 2008, the General Assembly introduced legislation (SB 685 *AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A STATE MUNICIPAL FINANCE ASSISTANCE COMMISSION, 2008 Session*) that would give extraordinary powers to Special Review Boards when impaneled to assist municipalities in distress. This bill legalized the abrogation of collective bargaining agreements and the curtailment of collective bargaining as possible remedies for these situations. Would you;

SPONSOR - SUPPORT - OPPOSE

legislation that permits this type of treatment of workers?

2. In 1975, legislation was passed requiring that disputes between management and Fire Fighters be resolved through mediation, fact finding and binding arbitration. This forward thinking legislation is now being emulated nationally. Unfortunately, the Connecticut Statute has been altered over the years in several significant areas. In 2010, a proposal was put forth to reduce the Arbitration Panel from three members (*1 Management Advocate, 1 Labor Advocate and 1 Neutral*) to a one (*neutral*) member Panel appointed by the Labor Board, effectively eliminating the equal balance of the current Panel arrangement. Would you;

SUPPORT - OPPOSE

legislation which weakens the current binding arbitration process and/or attempts to implement the 2010 proposal?

3. While private pensions are protected from under funding or poor investing by Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, ERISA, Fire Fighter pensions do not have this kind of protection.

a) Would you;

SPONSOR - SUPPORT - OPPOSE

legislation to create ERISA like protections and guarantees for municipal and state employee pension systems that would protect Fire Fighter pensions from under funding and fund "raiding"?

b) Would you;

SPONSOR - SUPPORT - OPPOSE

legislation to include Fire Fighter representatives in the decision-making process for investment of pension assets?

4. The State of Connecticut has created a "Hazardous Duty" classification for state employees who receive a pension credit of 2.5% for each year of service. Municipal employees in the Municipal Employees Pension System (MERS) do not. Would you;

SPONSOR - SUPPORT - OPPOSE

legislation to make changes to MERS so as to bring equality to municipal and state employees who work in a hazardous duty classification?

5. Currently, Connecticut Statute vests control of all emergency scenes to the ranking fire department officer on the scene. Would you;

SUPPORT - OPPOSE

changes to the current system?

6. Fire Fighters and Police Officers have had the protections of the Good Samaritan Laws for many years. Would you

SUPPORT - OPPOSE

maintaining the current law?

7. Currently Connecticut General Statutes provide Workers' Compensation benefits for police officers suffering mental or emotional impairment as a result of line of duty traumatic events. Would you;

SPONSOR - SUPPORT - OPPOSE

legislation providing similar benefits to fire fighters?

8. Communicable diseases, such as Hepatitis, Tuberculosis and Meningitis present serious health risks to Fire Fighters and Police Officers. These individuals run a high risk of occupational exposure to these serious diseases in the course of their work. In 2010, the General Assembly passed legislation that clarified the Workers' Compensation statutes regarding certain diseases. This was an improvement over existing law. In the future, would you;

SPONSOR - SUPPORT - OPPOSE

legislation that would create a rebuttable presumption that a Fire Fighter and Police Officer who may develop a communicable disease contracted the condition from work and are entitled to worker's compensation benefits?

9. Breathing apparatus and protective clothing protects Fire Fighters from some hazardous materials in a toxic atmosphere, but not all. Toxic chemicals

