



The Professional Fire Fighters of Maine will be considering endorsements for the 2018 elections as recommendations to our members. In order to be considered we require that you fill out the attached questionnaire and please return it by July 27, 2018 to johnmartell@pffmaine.org

We fully realize that some candidates do not fill out questionnaires for a number of reasons and we respect that choice. We hope that you will consider taking the time to review our questions and look forward to your response. Thank you for taking the time to run for office and the opportunity to serve the people of Maine.

Legislative Committee

NAME

HOUSE/SENATE DISTRICT

- 1. Are you currently, or have you at any time in your working career, been a member of a Union? If so, which one?**
2. Are you an incumbent? Are you running as a Clean Election or Traditional candidate?
3. Do the communities within your district employ unionized firefighters, EMS providers, or dispatchers?
4. Do you support the right of all workers to form and join unions and would you publicly support workers through your statements, by attending rallies and assist in preventing employers from interfering with or preventing such workers from practicing their rights to organize?
5. In the private sector, when unions and employers are unable to reach an agreement during contract negotiations, both parties can agree to seek binding arbitration. In this process, a neutral arbitrator examines a number of factors (proposals from both sides, financial figures, and other pertinent facts) and issues a ruling outlining a fair agreement. After agreeing to binding arbitration, both the employer and the union must accept the agreement.

In the public sector, though, arbitration is not binding. Public sector unions or employers can reject the findings of a neutral arbitrator, dragging on the negotiation process, leaving both employee and employer without a contract. Will you support legislation that would make arbitration rulings binding for public sector employees, including teachers, firefighters, police, clerks, and others?

6. In past years Maine voters defeated both the Palesky and TABOR initiatives. Do you favor these types of referendums or are they best resolved by the Legislature?

7. In your opinion, is the responsibility for providing for the public safety a solely local issue? If not, what role should the state and federal governments play?

8. As Maine continues to work to try and address ongoing budget shortfalls, there have been cuts in various programs and services. Reductions to State Revenue Sharing have had a direct “trickle down” impact on municipal employees such as fire fighters; fire departments have laid off personnel or reduced staffing.
 - a. Will you work to lessen the impact of state budget cuts on fire departments and work to maintain the full amount of Revenue Sharing laid out in Maine Statute?

 - b. Please explain what you would do to balance the State Budget? What is your position on taxes, tax breaks, and generating revenue?

9. 60% of the International Association of Fire Fighters Line of Duty Deaths are attributed to cancer. The exposure of all Maine fire

fighters to carcinogenic flame-retardants and other toxic chemicals while on the scene of any fire is a major health problem. Do you support the continued ban of these flame retardants (such as DECA) and other toxic chemicals under Maine Statute and support legislation that would make it safer for fire fighters and Maine citizens in regards to toxic chemicals.

10. Do you support the right of all Maine workers to be able to unionize and to have and maintain collective bargaining rights? Will you oppose any and all forms of legislation that attack these issues? Will you oppose any and all forms of so called "Right to Work" proposals and what is your position on the Supreme Courts recent Janus decision?

11. In the past, the Legislature passed budgets that were partially balanced by enacting cuts on public pensions; despite the fact that many public employees do not qualify for social security and rely on their public pensions for their retirement. Will you resist efforts to balance future state budgets by further cutting the pensions and health care plans for veteran public employees who have been paying into the system?

12. Will you oppose efforts to change the Workers Compensation laws by making it harder for injured workers to receive the benefits that they are entitled to and which they need in order to pay their medical costs?

13. Would you support the full funding of state wide training facilities for all Maine firefighters? Currently, there is no approved state wide facility for firefighters to train, unlike the facility for law enforcement officers.

14. Do you actively seek the endorsement of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maine?

Please respond to johnmartell@pffmaine.org