



NEBRASKA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

2010 State Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: _____

Campaign Name: _____

Campaign Address: _____

Campaign Phone Number : (_____)_____

Campaign Fax Number: (_____)_____

Email Address: _____

Website Address: _____

Campaign Manager Name: _____

Campaign Manager Phone Number: _____

Legislative District: _____

Please return completed questionnaire to:

Dave Engler, President
Nebraska Professional Fire Fighters Association
241 Victory Lane
Lincoln, Nebraska 68528
Phone: (402) 770-5547
Fax: (402) 475-6442
Email: dengler@npffa.org
Website: www.npffa.org

1. Commission of Industrial Relations

I understand that The Commission of Industrial Relations is currently bound by Nebraska Rev. Stat. 48-818, to determine comparability of working conditions, wages and benefits and as an elected official, I will not support any changes to the current statutory language and I recognize that any such effort is an effort to undo the balance struck between labor and public sector employers that has been in effect for over 40 years.

I WILL SUPPORT: _____

(Signature and Date)

Comments:

2. SAFE STAFFING LEVELS

To be effective, fire/rescue departments must be well-equipped and fully staffed. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends adequate safe staffing levels of a minimum of 4 firefighters on all fire suppression apparatuses (NFPA 1710). The critical importance of adequate fire/rescue department staffing has been well documented by independent studies. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has identified lack of staffing as a key cause of firefighter fatalities on the fireground.

The overwhelming majority of fire/rescue departments in Nebraska do not meet the minimum safe staffing standards. If elected to office, I would support legislation that requires four fire fighters on all apparatuses when they respond to emergency responses and I understand that increasing staffing costs money and support those additional costs in an effort to improve public and firefighter safety.

I WILL SUPPORT: _____
(Signature and Date)

Comments: _____

3. Infectious Disease Presumption

Firefighters and Emergency Medical Personnel are commonly exposed to patients with infectious diseases. Although emergency personnel use personal protective equipment to protect themselves against exposure to infectious diseases, it is not uncommon to be exposed to infected patients in the uncontrolled environments emergency personnel work in. Some exposures are obvious and are reported by the emergency responder, but there are cases in which an emergency responder may not know they have been exposed.

As an elected official, I would support legislation that if an emergency responder contracts an infectious disease that is scientifically proven to be a disease likely for an emergency responder to contract, it would be presumed that the emergency responder contracted the disease as a result of their employment unless it is medically proven that it was contracted elsewhere; very similar to the heart and cancer legislation currently in Nebraska State Statute.

I will support: _____
(signature and date)

Comments: _____

4. First Class City Firefighter Pension

As an elected official, I will support efforts to provide Nebraska's firefighters working in first class cities a pension that is comparable to those of surrounding states to ensure that we are able to retain quality professionals in Nebraska's fire service.

I will support: _____
(signature and date)

Comments: _____

5. First Responder Mental Injuries

In the scope and course of their duties, emergency response personnel may respond to unusual situations in which they witness or are victims of a violent criminal act or are subject to other extraordinary conditions that result in mental injuries in the absence of trauma for the responder. As an elected official, I would support legislation that allows these mental injuries, in the absence of physical trauma, to be compensated when such injuries are suffered by first responders.

I will support: _____
(signature and date)

Comments: _____

