

**FIRE** A LOCAL  
**IOF** 2928  
**RESCUE**  
**PALM BEACH COUNTY**

*The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928 Political Endorsement Guidelines*

Introduction

*The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928* is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan labor organization affiliated with International Association of Fire Fighters *The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928* are dedicated to protecting the safety, income and working conditions of its members through the promotion and endorsement of pro-firefighter candidates.

Political Endorsement Committee

*The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928* will have a standing three (3) person candidate endorsement committee. This committee shall consist of the President or his/her designee, 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Vice President; in addition there shall be an Ad/Hoc committee of four (4) or more *Union* members picked by the President with input from the standing committee.

When multiple political jurisdictions are being screened at the same time at least one (1) standing member will participate in the process and three (3) or more Ad/Hoc members. This will ensure the screening process is done in the best interest of the *Union* members in that jurisdiction (i.e. at least two (2) city members should screen city candidates from such city and two (2) county members for county commission). In situations of State and National elections, the Ad/Hoc committee shall be made up of a broad base of members so that both municipal and county firefighting interests are represented for such races (i.e. two (2) city and two (2) county representatives).

Electoral Activities Guidelines

Protecting firefighter safety, income and working conditions through the election of pro-firefighter candidates is the primary goal of *The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928* electoral activities. This Electoral Policy sets forth the organizational requirements for a candidate or community issue to gain the endorsement of *The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928*. (also know as *the Union*).

# POLITICAL ENDORSEMENT POLICY

*The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., Local 2928, I.A.F.F.* electoral activities may be conducted independently of candidates and candidate committees. In accordance with laws governing independent expenditures, *The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928* cannot coordinate its electoral activities with candidates or candidate committees. The *Union* may decide to support a pro-firefighter candidate through an endorsement or, alternatively, public recognition of a candidate's pro-firefighter positions. In addition, the *Union* may choose to oppose an anti-firefighter candidate by appropriate identification of the candidate's anti-firefighter position.

## Pro-Firefighter Criteria:

Any candidate for elected or appointed office seeking *The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928* Pro-Firefighter Label must at a minimum support:

1. The right to collective bargaining for Firefighters.
2. Government provided Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services.
3. Be open minded.
4. Commit to an open door policy with *The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928*.

## Endorsement Criteria

To qualify for *The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928* endorsement, minimally the candidate must::

1. Meet the Pro-Firefighter criteria
2. Complete and sign a *Union* Political Screening Questionnaire when available.
3. Have attended a political screening process hosted by *The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928* within the 18 months.
4. Receive a majority by the committee members.
5. Articulate how he or she has engaged in specific activities which demonstrate a commitment to the fire service or articulate their intentions to support their community Firefighters and how they can do so.
6. Be able to articulate issues that pertain to the campaign.
7. Must be a Viable Candidate.

## Early Endorsement Policy

To qualify for an early endorsement the standing committee must meet and determine that the candidate has met the following guidelines, if there is not a consensus, the standing committee will convene the Ad/Hoc committee to decide:

1. Has held political office within the last 18 months.
2. Has a demonstrated, consistent record of supporting the mission of *The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928* as seen by the committee members.
3. Received the Union's endorsement in his/her previous election.

## Incumbent Endorsements

The standing committee must meet and have a consensus in favor of the Incumbent Endorsement; if there is not a consensus they will convene the Ad/Hoc committee prior to an endorsement. At a minimum to qualify for the Incumbent Endorsement the candidate:

1. Must currently hold office.
2. Must meet the Pro Firefighter Criteria

## Other Endorsement Considerations:

*The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928* may endorse more than one candidate for election in any given political race. At the same time the *Union* may decide NOT to endorse any candidate for election. These choices are at the sole discretion of the Ad/Hoc political endorsement committee.

## Non-Partisan Policy

*The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928* recognizes that strong Pro-Firefighter candidates are not limited to any one political party and will strive to maintain a non partisan balance in our endorsements by supporting the candidates that support our issues.

## Monetary Contributions

*The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928* recognizes that monetary contributions are an important role within the election process. No candidate, political committee, political party committee or issue shall receive monetary contributions from the *Union* or any of its affiliated Political Action fund sources, or affiliates without at least an affirmative vote by the standing Political Endorsement Committee.

## Campaign Support

*The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928* recognizes that volunteerism and other campaign support activities are vital to any political campaign. No candidate, political committee, political party committee or issue shall receive the support personnel or comprehensive knowledge and assets that can be provided by the Union without an affirmative vote by the standing or Ad/Hoc Political Endorsement Committee as outlined in this policy.

## Endorsement Letter

*The Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Palm Beach County, Inc., I.A.F.F. Local 2928* recognizes that its Firefighter brand name is a valuable asset to any campaign. For this reason no candidate, political committee, political party committee or issue shall receive an endorsement letter without an affirmative vote by the standing or Ad/Hoc Political Endorsement Committee as outlined in this policy.