



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

October 17, 2022

Dear Oregon State/IAFF Fire Fighter:

Attached are the 2022 General Election endorsements from the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council (OSFFC). 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.

In April of this year at our convention in McMinnville, we met to discuss the priorities of the council, which is reflected in the legislative agenda that we will be working on during the 2023 and 2024 sessions. It was clear that extending the workback provisions and improving PERS retirement benefits would be of great importance to our members. Permanent funding of the apprenticeship program as well as dealing with our staffing crisis throughout the state were included in our interviews. It is based upon the Big 5 and these issues that we have made the endorsements that we have made.

Absent on this endorsement list is the Governor's race. As far back as our executive board can remember, the OSFFC has always taken a position on this race. Although it can be argued that one candidate or the other might be better on our issues, the divisiveness of an endorsement was not something that the board would allow to fracture our membership. We interviewed both Tina Kotek and Christine Drazen, but Betsy Johnson would not interview with the OSFFC.

Please take note in one of our greatest champions and friends of the firefighters in the congressional race 4, which includes parts of Douglas, Coos, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, and Benton Counties. Val Hoyle has supported the OSFFC and helped move our legislative agenda throughout her time as an elected official and we need her in Washington, DC to move the agenda of the IAFF forward.

We are very fortunate to have L1660 member and Representative Dacia Grayber who represents House District 28. She has been a champion for all union firefighters statewide and we need her advocacy and leadership in the House to ensure our issues are being heard. As Chair of Veterans and Emergency Management and Vice Chair of Business and Labor she hears every bill regarding the fire service in the Oregon House of Representatives, staffing, apprenticeship, presumption, State Fire Marshal funding.

96% of firefighters in the State of Oregon cast a ballot. 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.



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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 particular race

Karl Koenig
President

Alan Ferschweiler
Legislative Director