**Seattle Fire Fighters Union Local 27**

**2020 Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire**

**(City of Seattle)**

1. **Campaign Information**

Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Position Sought \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Committee Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other Phone Number­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Website Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Facebook ­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Twitter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Manager Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Manager Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**A picture containing food

Description automatically generated**

**Campaign Information**

1. **Have you ever run for or held an elected** **office**? (please circle one)

Yes No

1. **If so, did you receive the endorsement of Local 27 or another IAFF affiliate?**

Yes No

1. **If so, did you receive the endorsement of any labor organizations? If yes, please list.**

Yes No

1. **Have you received the endorsement of any labor organization(s) for your current campaign? If yes, please list.**
2. **Please describe your campaign manager’s experience.**
3. **Please identify your campaign consultant(s).**
4. **Do you have a written campaign plan?**
5. **What is your campaign fundraising goal?**
6. **Please briefly describe your campaign budget.**
7. **What other endorsements have you received to date?**
8. **What other endorsements do you expect/want to receive?**
9. **What role will public safety issues play in your campaign? Please provide details.**
10. **Describe any union experience and or past support for the labor movement.**
11. **Priorities**
12. What will your priorities be if elected?
13. What are the most significant issues facing Seattle?
14. What committees are you interested in serving on?
15. What public safety issues will you focus on if elected?
16. What labor issues will you focus on if elected?
17. What issues are you aware of that are challenging the Seattle Fire Department and Seattle Fire Fighters and how you would address these issues as an elected official?
18. If elected, will you meet or respond to Seattle Fire Fighters in a timely manner when we request it due to a concern or question?
19. **Seattle Fire Fighter Issues**

**Covid-19**

*The Covid-19 Pandemic has caused a multitude of significant impacts to everyone in our community. Not only are people getting sick and dying, but the economic and social impacts have been unprecedented. In addition, fear and anxiety are prevalent. Throughout this crisis, Seattle Fire Fighters have not wavered. The commitment and dedication of fire fighters to serve, in spite of the significant health and safety risks, has been tested. The continuing and ever present fire fighters, with sirens blaring on the way to an emergency, not only demonstrates their deep resolve to serve amidst this crisis, but it also relieves the fear and anxiety of our community because they know help is still ready, prepared, and on the way.*

**If elected, will you support maintaining the service levels and staffing for the fire department?**

**If elected, will you ensure that the health, safety, and security of fire fighters and their families is maintained?**

**PTSD and Fire Fighter Suicide**

*On the job stresses have a direct link to a high rate of PTSD and suicide for firefighters and EMTs. The Seattle Fire Department has actually experienced two suicides within 12 months in 2016. Research has shown that fire fighters have a higher rate of PTSD than the general population. According to the American Psychiatric Association, the rate of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in the general population ranges from seven percent to nine percent. Various research studies pertaining specifically to firefighters have cited PTSD rates for firefighters ranging from 16 percent to as high as 24 percent. Most people associate PTSD with the military (combat veterans). It has been referred to as “shell shock” and “battle fatigue.” The use of these terms has been slowly fading as public awareness of PTSD has increased. What has also changed is that there is an increased willingness to seek professional help for PTSD. It is difficult to determine the number of fire fighters who have PTSD. Many firefighters will not admit they have PTSD due to the social and professional stigma attached to psychological issues. In addition, fire fighters are typically concerned that seeking help for mental health issues could negatively impact their careers.*

**If elected, will you support efforts, resources, and funding for programs to ensure the mental and emotional health of fire fighters?**

**Assaults on Fire Fighters**

*Seattle Fire Fighters Union, Local 27 has multiple fire fighters who have sustained injuries due to being assaulted by citizens while providing emergency care. Assaults on fire fighters and paramedics have been escalating over the last couple of years. One of the fire fighters who was assaulted during an EMS response may not even be able to return to work due to the injuries he sustained. In addition, citizens who assault a fire fighter or paramedic are not held accountable and charged appropriately for this crime.*

**If elected, will you support efforts to reduce assaults on fire fighters?**

**If elected, can we count on you to support legislation that sends a strong message that assaulting fire fighters will be not be tolerated in Seattle?**

**Post-Retirement Medical Coverage**

*Fire fighting is a dangerous, labor-intensive, and physically demanding job that requires a high degree of skill and efficiency.*

*Fire fighters are typically unable to work effectively beyond their mid-fifties. Furthermore, fire fighters are more susceptible to certain types of cancers.*

*Medicare coverage does not begin until 65. Thus, after many years of dedicated service most Seattle Fire Fighters must provide their own medical coverage for up to 14 years after retirement creating a significant financial impact at a time when fire fighter’s health is at risk.*

*Post-retirement healthcare from retirement until Medicare is a significant financial burden that is unusual for most workers.*

**If elected, will you support efforts to support the healthcare coverage needs of fire fighters between retirement and Medicare?**

**Fire Department Service Increases**

*Demands on the Seattle Fire Department continue to increase at an alarming rate.*

*Seattle has experienced unprecedented growth in the last several years and has been the fasted growing city in the United States since 2010, adding 116,000 more citizens, which is an 18.7% increase in population. This is Seattle’s greatest rate of growth since the Klondike Goldrush in 1896.*

*The homeless/street population has also increased. Seattle Fire Fighters serve every member of our community without regard to financial status, immigration status, or any other criteria. We respond 24 hours a day to alleys and parks as well as to homes and hotels. We serve those living on the streets of Broadway and Belltown as well as those living in the homes of Broadmoor and Blue Ridge. We respond daily into unauthorized homeless encampments to answer the calls of the people living there. These responses have increased dramatically and have become more challenging in many ways.*

*Meanwhile, over the years the department has eliminated several Fire Engines and Aid Cars due to budget cuts. The growing number of vulnerable Seattle residents including the elderly, people with mental health issues, people with drug and alcohol addictions, and the homeless, are inundating Seattle’s fire fighters with 911 calls that are not acute emergencies although they are in need of help. 911 is oftentimes the primary source of medical care for some of these populations. When fire fighters respond to these calls they are no longer available for more time-sensitive critical emergencies.*

*Fire department resources have been reduced overall. Normally when a single unit approaches 3500 responses annually then additional resources are considered. SFD has single units responding to 4,000, 5,000, 6,000, 7,000 and over 8,000 responses annually. This is not sustainable.*

*In 2002 it was projected that 10,963 housing units would be added to South Lake Union by 2020. Between 2004 and 2010, 1.78 million square feet of biotech space was constructed, 2.2 million square feet of office space was constructed, and a total of 257,679 square feet of retail space was constructed. So far, actual development has exceeded the highest projected growth by 10 percent. An economic study has projected up to $154 million in new direct tax revenue may be generated by redevelopment between 2005 and 2025, with as many as 23,000 jobs created in South Lake Union by 2020. Currently, in South Lake Union Seattle Fire Fighters provide fire and life safety services to over 50,000 additional citizens with the same level of resources we had ten years ago.*

*We must provide the necessary resources to keep pace with the growing demands of our thriving city. services must be properly prioritized and maintained at the required minimum levels.*

**If elected, will you oppose any reductions and support increases to fire department services?**

**If elected, will you always ensure that emergency services are maintained at safe and appropriate levels?**

**If elected, are you willing to oppose efforts to cut or reduce fire department response times or resources, especially in lieu of other non-essential services?**

**SFD Uniformed Dispatchers**

*Seattle has one the best and most responsive 911 operations in the nation. One significant reason for this is that Seattle has experienced uniformed fire fighters answering 911 calls and dispatching aid. Having experienced fire fighters as 911 Dispatchers allows the fire fighters on scene and those they are helping get the proper resources. Having experienced fire fighters as 911 Dispatchers is also important because their experience is critical in the allocation of the City’s finite fire protection and life safety resources. In other words, making sure that the proper apparatus and personnel are dispatched to the most serious aid calls.*

**If elected, will you oppose elimination of uniformed fire fighters as Dispatchers at the Seattle 911 call center?**

**5-Person Ladder Companies**

*The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) sets national standards for the fire service to protect the public and make fire fighters as safe as possible when they do their job. NFPA 1710 sets staffing standards which includes at least four (4) fire fighters on every engine company and ladder company and five (5) fire fighters on ladder companies in high density areas.*

*These staffing standards are based on studies and determined by a consortium of participants including members of the fire service, municipalities business, and industry professionals. These staffing standards are* ***minimum****standards that ensure timely, safe, effective, and appropriate service levels for communities.*

*With the increases population and density occurring in Seattle 5-person ladder companies become even more important than ever.*

**If elected, will you support five-person ladder companies where indicated and preserve four-person staffing on every fire engine and fire truck in Seattle?**

**Collective Bargaining**

*Collective Bargaining is a critical element of positive and effective labor relations. Public Employee Unions are a great asset in dealing with critical issues such as the severe government budget shortfalls we recently experienced. For example, in their 2008 contract negotiations Seattle Fire Fighters proposed and agreed to forego the minimum 2% cost of living increase for their entire 3 year contract to help the City of Seattle during the economic downturn. Then again, in the their current contract, Seattle Fire Fighters agreed to take significantly less than the cost of living for 2012 and 2013. These acts of leadership saved the City millions of dollars and demonstrated the value of a good relationship with workers. In other parts of the country we have seen more aggressive and antagonistic approaches to dealing with public employee unions that may save some money in the short term, but ultimately will destroy morale, decrease productivity, and set a poor example for all employers.*

*Our right to collectively bargaining is under attack. Legislators in several states, including Washington, and multiple jurisdictions across this country are working with organizations such as the Freedom Foundation to pass ALEC-sponsored legislation that is detrimental to collective bargaining. The current legislation being pushed by this corporate- funded non-profit calls for public employee collective bargaining sessions to be open to the public in the interest of transparency. This is not about transparency, it is about destroying unions.*

*The goal of the ALEC legislation is to use the misinformed court of public opinion to cripple public unions and continue the march towards a country where greed has no antidote. ALEC currently has some traction with this model legislation in Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington*

*Several organizations/offices in Seattle are in support of open collective bargaining for police officers. These include, the Director of the Office of Professional Accountability, the Office of Professional Accountability Review Board, the Community Police Commission, and seemingly the Seattle City Attorney’s Office. Their support is just the crack in the door that the Freedom Foundation, the Washington Policy Center, ALEC and all the other union busting groups have been waiting for. We have boards and commissions in Seattle that are playing right into the hands of organized labors’ enemy. Just look at what is being posted on the website of the Freedom Foundation: “Other periodicals agree with the Freedom Foundation’s Position”, and they go on to say, “Notes obtained through a public records request—show the Department of Justice, director of the Office of Professional Accountability (OPA), the OPA Auditor, the Community Police Commission (CPC), and the OPA Review Board agreed that the collective bargaining process should be made public." The Freedom Foundation is applauding what they see as a first step towards open collective bargaining for all.*

**If elected, will you support the collective bargaining rights of Seattle Fire Fighters, City of Seattle employees, and all union employees and oppose any and all legislation, at the City or State level that reduces the rights and abilities of workers to collectively bargain with their employer?**

**If elected will you oppose efforts or legislation to ‘daylight” or open collective bargaining to the public?**

**So- called “Right to Work”**

*We have been seeing attacks on Labor Unions nationwide, with States attempting to enact Right-to-Work laws. These laws weaken Unions and significantly reduce an employee’s voice concerning wages, hours, and working conditions.*

**If elected, will you oppose and work to block any attempt to bring Right-to-Work laws to Washington State?**

**Safe Injection Sites**

*Safe- injection Sites have been proposed by some in response to the opioid crisis. Safe-injection sites allow drug addicts to inject illegal drugs intravenously in a public facility. According to Dr. Caleb Banta-Green at the University of Washington, “It (safe-injection sites) may not help with mortality rates. I suspect it does but it’s small. About 1 to 2 percent of opiate injectors die every year. So, you have to be studying thousands of people to see an effect of that.” Opponents of safe- injection sites emphasize the need for treatment facilities and counseling rather than condoning and normalizing this type of drug use.*

*Fire fighters respond every day to people who use illegal drugs, including intravenous heroin users, and we know that condoning and supporting heroin addiction is the wrong path. Addiction to heroin is only part of the horror we see. Heroin use means crime, incarceration, and criminal predators, job loss, broken families, homelessness, child abuse, child prostitution, and more devastating effects. In terms of harm, allowing heroin addiction to continue creates extraordinary harm in a wide variety of ways.*

**If elected, what is your position on this proposal?**

**Navigation Team**

*The City of Seattle has a Navigation Team which is a specially trained team comprised of outreach workers paired with Seattle Police Department (SPD) personnel, to connect unsheltered people existing in unsanitary, unhealthy, and inhuman conditions to housing and critical resources, while helping to address pervasive intolerable situations related to homelessness in Seattle.*

**If elected, how will you address the issue of unauthorized encampments?**

**If elected, will you support unauthorized homeless encampment sweeps?**

**If elected, will you support the Navigation Team?**

**If elected, how will you address the numerous conditions in public places in Seattle that create an unsafe working environment for fire fighters?**

**Prioritizing Basic Services including Public Safety**

*Public Safety is a core function of any municipal government. However, while the City of Seattle has grown astronomically, and the number of emergency responses has increased with that growth in both number and type of response, the Seattle Fire Department has remained static. In fact, the fire department has fewer fire fighters than in previous years. In addition to front line fire fighters, the Training Division is under-staffed, especially in light of the increased training demands caused by an intentional reduction in the number of fire fighters hired over the last decade. Staffing all of our fire engines and fire trucks is critical to protecting the citizens of Seattle and ensuring that there are enough fire engines and trucks is just as important.*

**List some specific examples of how you will prioritize public safety if elected.**