**Yonkers Fire Fighters Local 628**

**Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire**

1. **CANDIDATE INFORMATION** Incumbent\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Party Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Other lines? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are you in a primary? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, which lines? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a union member? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If so, which International?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Which Local?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social Media ­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number & Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How many volunteers do you have? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How many voters are in your district? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How many votes are needed to win your election? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Candidate may write on back if more room is needed

1. **CAMPAIGN INFORMATION**
2. **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 628 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. **If endorsed, what assistance do you ask from Local 628**

#

1. **PRIORITIES**
2. **What will your priorities be if elected?**
3. **What are the most significant issues facing Yonkers?**
4. **What committees are you interested in serving on?**
5. **What public safety issues will you focus on if elected?**
6. **What labor issues will you focus on if elected?**
7. **What issues are you aware of that are challenging the Yonkers Fire Department and Yonkers Fire Fighters and how you would address these issues as an elected official?**
8. **If elected, will you meet or respond to Yonkers Fire Fighters in a timely manner when we request it due to a concern or question?**

# COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

1. **What is your position on workers’ right to organize?**
2. **Do you feel that each union member should be required to pay their fair share to their union since the union represents them in bargaining and in contract enforcement?**
3. **What is your position on collective bargaining rights for public employees?**
4. **What actions would you personally take or have you taken to support workers organizing to form a union or seeking new collective bargaining agreements?**

1. **UNION ISSUES**
2. **What is the Taylor Law?**
3. **Do you believe the Triborough Amendment to the Taylor Law should be repealed and why?**
4. **Economic Development: Do you support, as a condition of receiving economic development assistance, requiring companies to make commitments to provide good jobs (jobs that pay a living wage, provide benefits, etc) and commitments to stay in the community for a certain period of time?**

# TAX BREAKS/TAX CAP

1. **Do you support tax breaks for developers, and if yes, for how long and under what conditions?**
2. **Do you support tax breaks or other benefits for volunteer emergency services workers and why?**
3. **Do you support the 2% tax cap?**
4. **What do you think should be done to help struggling communities, municipalities and school districts stay within the cap and still be able to provide adequate services?**

1. **YONKERS 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, Yonkers 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. In recent years, The Yonkers Fire Department has actually experienced two suicides. 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?**

* **Fire Department Service Increases**

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

*Yonkers has experienced unprecedented growth in the last several years and it continues to grow!.*

*Meanwhile, over the years the department has eliminated Fire Companies and Safety due to budget cuts. The growing number of vulnerable Yonkers residents including the elderly, and homeless are inundating Yonkers 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.*

*Our city is ridden with gas pipes that have long surpassed their life expectancy. Natural gas leaks have gone up significantly in the past few years.*

*When fire fighters respond to these calls they are no longer available for more time-sensitive critical emergencies.*

*Our Fire Prevention Division is operating at bare minimum to say the least. The development throughout Yonkers has put an increased demand on that Division. While that may sound like good news, the lack of staffing in a city of over two hundred thousand residents combined with an aged and deteriorating infrastructure requires an adequate number of personnel. The proactive work of The Fire Prevention Division not only keeps our fire fighters safe, but the residents of our city as well*

*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?**

* **Ridge Hill Fire House and additional Fire company**

*During the process of approving Ridge Hill the Yonkers City Council and the Developer, Forest City Ratner, made commitments which were based off the findings of the SEQRA conducted prior to approval of the project.*

*Now, over a decade after it’s grand opening, Ridge Hill still does not have a Fire House…Yet it continues to grow. Aside from the existing retail structures, additional residential structures are going up, and more and more residents are moving in. Throughout the city we are seeing more and more development happening, with more projects in the pipeline, some of which refer to a non-existent fire house & Company to address the increased demand they will place on the Yonkers Fire department.*

*With the additional development, and increasing population and density occurring in Yonkers additional companies are becoming even more important than ever.*

**If endorsed, will you publicly support the building and addition of a Fire Company in the Ridge Hill vicinity, as required by the SEQRA findings and Resolution of the City Council in 2006.**

* **Aging Apparatus**

*A worn out fire truck puts everyone at danger. If a firefighter cannot reach their destination safely and quickly, the chances of a disaster grow higher and higher.*

*The Departments apparatus fleet is aging out, with some vehicles entering 20 years of service and other requiring expensive repairs to keep operational. The useful life span of a fire apparatus is from 15 to 16 years of service. With the vehicles first 10 years of services as a frontline apparatus and then being rotated to reserve status for the next 5 to 6 years. Presently the Department has frontline vehicles with 15 years of service and are continuously out of service due to mechanical breakdowns*

**If elected, would you support replacing frontline apparatus every 10 years?**

* **Prioritizing Basic Services including Public Safety**

*Public Safety is a core function of any municipal government. However, while the City of Yonkers has grown astronomically, and the number of emergency responses has increased with that growth in both number and type of response, the Yonkers 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, Staffing all of our fire engines and fire trucks is critical to protecting the citizens of Yonkers 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.**