



O'Fallon Fire Protection District
 111 Laura K Drive
 O'Fallon, MO 63366
 ofallonfire.org • 636.272.3493

add
union bug



VOTE NOV. 3

**PROP-
F**

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This information was prepared and paid for by the O'Fallon Fire Protection District, 111 Laura K Dr., Thomas Vineyard, Chief, O'Fallon, MO 63366. This information is intended solely to educate and inform residents about a question that will be before voters. It is not intended to advocate, support or oppose the passage or defeat of the measure. Each voter should vote for or against the question based on his or her own judgment.

PROUDLY SERVING:



O'FALLON

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Committed to protecting our community

OFPD Welcomes Two New Firefighter/Paramedics

The O'Fallon Fire Protection District is proud to welcome two new firefighter/paramedics to its ranks. In early 2020, Allison Adams and Chad Ham began their service to the O'Fallon community.

The pair have been busy integrating into the OFPD family, spending their days learning the ins and outs of the District, and training on different rescue techniques so that they are ready to act quickly and proficiently.

"I chose to work for OFPD because I like what the department stands for and how much it goes above and beyond to help and be part of the community," says Chad, a Marine Corps veteran. "OFPD has a good group of firefighters who love their jobs and work together very well."

Their hiring is part of OFPD's long-range plan to meet National Fire Protection Association staffing standards and fill its trucks with firefighter/paramedics capable

of providing advanced emergency medical care. This goal was a central feature of the Proposition Safety plan, approved by residents in 2016. Since then, OFPD has added 15 firefighter/paramedics.

Get to know Allison and Chad at www.ofallonfire.org, and join us in welcoming them to the community.

Fall Into Safety

The change of seasons brings with it a change in fire dangers.

Stay safe this fall...

- Test and change the batteries in your smoke alarm.**
- Holiday decorations can easily catch fire. Keep them away from open flames, light bulbs and heaters.**
- Only use battery operated candles.**
- Keep exits and escape routes clear of decorations.**
- Stay in the kitchen if you are cooking.**

If you need help testing, installing or changing the batteries in your smoke alarm call 636.272.3493.



Allison Adams and Chad Ham



O'Fallon Fire Protection District

Prop. F

Vote Nov. 3



Stepping Up To Help



In April, Captain Kevin Davis traveled to New York City as a member of a national Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT) that helped accurately identify COVID-19 victims and support New York's local mortuary services. His efforts, along with those of the emergency responders and National Guard members from around the country, helped provide proper respect to those who passed while also providing closure for the families and friends of those who lost their lives to the pandemic.

How To Vote

In-Person
Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3
Polls Open 6 a.m.–7 p.m.

By Mail
Request ballot by Oct. 21

1. Receive ballot in mail
2. Complete ballot and have it notarized
3. Mail notarized ballot to Election Authority office, must arrive by Nov. 3 or Surrender the ballot at your polling place and vote in person Nov. 3

Absentee
Request ballot by Oct. 21

1. Receive ballot in mail
 2. Complete ballot and have it notarized
 3. Mail ballot to Election Authority, must arrive by Nov. 3 or Deliver ballot to Election Authority by 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3 or Surrender the ballot at your polling place and vote in person Nov. 3
- You may also vote absentee in-person at the Election Authority until 5 p.m. on Nov. 2.

ELECTION AUTHORITY
For details on how to vote, to request an absentee or mail-in ballot, or to find polling place information, contact the St. Charles County Election Authority.
636.949.7550
sccmo.org/410/Election-Authority
397 Turner Blvd., St. Peters, MO 63376

Prop. F Would Protect the Future of Our Community, Firefighters and Emergency Services

In these uncertain times, the safety of our local community is more important than ever. Prop. F is a proposal on the Nov. 3 ballot to protect the future of the O'Fallon Fire Protection District, and the firefighters who keep the community safe. It would provide adequate funding for the District's pension program, which supports retirement for our firefighters. If approved by voters, it would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home \$3.17 a month, around the cost of McDonald's Happy Meal.

Prop. F Would Support the First Pension Fund Update in Decades

More than 25 years ago, the community made the commitment to provide a reasonable retirement package to O'Fallon firefighters by approving a pension fund. Since then, our District's population and the number of firefighters has tripled, and the community's emergency services needs have grown.

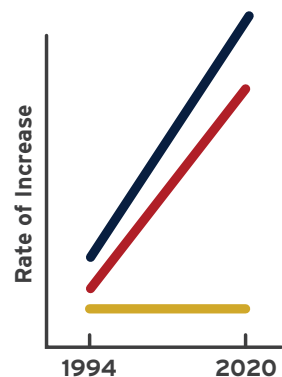
This growth, combined with fluctuations in the economy and state regulations, have reduced funding levels for our firefighters' retirement program.

Due to sound fiscal management, the District has been able to fund existing pension commitments without a rate increase. Unfortunately, this is no longer feasible without additional funding.



Growing With The Community

- **Population**
1994: 25,834
2020: 90,684
- **OFPD Employees**
1994: 17
2020: 71
- **Pention Fund Rolled Back 26%**



Prop. F Would Allow Firefighters To Retire When They Need To

Firefighters devote their lives to protecting our future, our lives and our property, responding to an average of 12,000 emergency calls during their career. In return, the District makes a commitment to protect their future by providing an adequate retirement program.

In many cases, work-related injuries or illness force our firefighters to leave the truck before their retirement benefits are available.

Today, working to the point of retirement means a firefighter needs to stay on active duty until they are well into their 60s, oftentimes with more than 30 years of service.

Without additional funding for the pension program, the average age of our firefighters will continue to increase, and money from the general operating fund, normally used for training, equipment and emergency services, will need to be used to fund existing retirement commitments.

The Dangers of the Job

Firefighters have one of the **HIGHEST** rates of injuries and illnesses of all occupations.

Increased exposure to **COVID-19** and other communicable diseases.

CANCER IS THE #1 KILLER OF ACTIVE FIREFIGHTERS. Firefighters have a 9% higher chance of receiving a cancer diagnosis and a 14% higher chance of dying of cancer than the general population.

SUICIDE RATES are estimated to be **10x** greater than the national average.

SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH consistently accounts for approximately half of the on-duty fatalities.

Approximately **20%** of firefighters and paramedics suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), compared to 3.5% of the general population.

Data compiled from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH), Journal of Occupational Health, Journal of Emergency Medical Services and the National Fire Protection Association.

The dangers of the job increase the longer a firefighter serves, and have made it harder to recruit new candidates. A secure retirement program ensures we can recruit and retain well-trained firefighters by offering a competitive benefits package.

Funding from Prop. F would give our firefighters the opportunity to retire before they become disabled, or receive a life-threatening medical diagnosis, and protect the level of emergency services we receive.

COVID-19 Reminders

As the risk of COVID-19 exposure continues, we want to keep you safe. You will notice some changes, but our level of commitment to protecting you, and our community remains the same.

- If you have a non-life-threatening medical emergency, a limited number of crew members will enter your home. If possible the initial evaluation may be done outside your front door. Crew members may be wearing full personal protective gear (PPE) including a mask, gown, gloved and glasses.
- When we are out in the community you will notice us practicing physical distancing, but waves and smiles are always reciprocated and appreciated!

Watch the Real Stories

Visit our Facebook page to watch the real stories of our O'Fallon Firefighters.

ofallonfire

