

Progress *and* Perseverance



2024 CPF LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Professional firefighters in California are often seen as the envy of the nation. Our members are generally better paid, better trained, more secure in retirement, better protected in health and safety and have stronger workplace protections.

This didn't happen because people just like firefighters. It happened because firefighters have a strong, united and active voice through their local, national and state unions.

Virtually every signature issue affecting firefighters' lives and livelihoods is made by the state. California Professional Firefighters has been at the center of every major success, giving firefighters a seat at the table and a powerful voice in the halls of power.



This report looks back at the unmatched legislative accomplishment firefighters have enjoyed through CPF's advocacy at the State Capitol. It reflects a volume of legislative successes few if any can match in organized labor. It also reflects the efforts undertaken to kill efforts that would have harmed our members.

The range of threats to which our members are asked to respond continues to grow. Our firefighters have been on the front lines in the fight against catastrophic wildfires, emergency medical response and our community's homelessness and behavioral health response. At the same time they are being asked to do more, our members face threats targeting everything from engine staffing to retirement security to privatization.

In each of these cases, CPF has met the moment with powerful advocacy, supported by strong relationships at the highest levels, that has brought results.

We're proud of what CPF has accomplished on behalf of our members. With the strength of our unparalleled team of professionals, and the steadfast solidarity of our proud union, we will continue to meet the challenges of the future with the same strength and commitment that we have met those of the past.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian K. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian K. Rice
President

Strength Through Solidarity

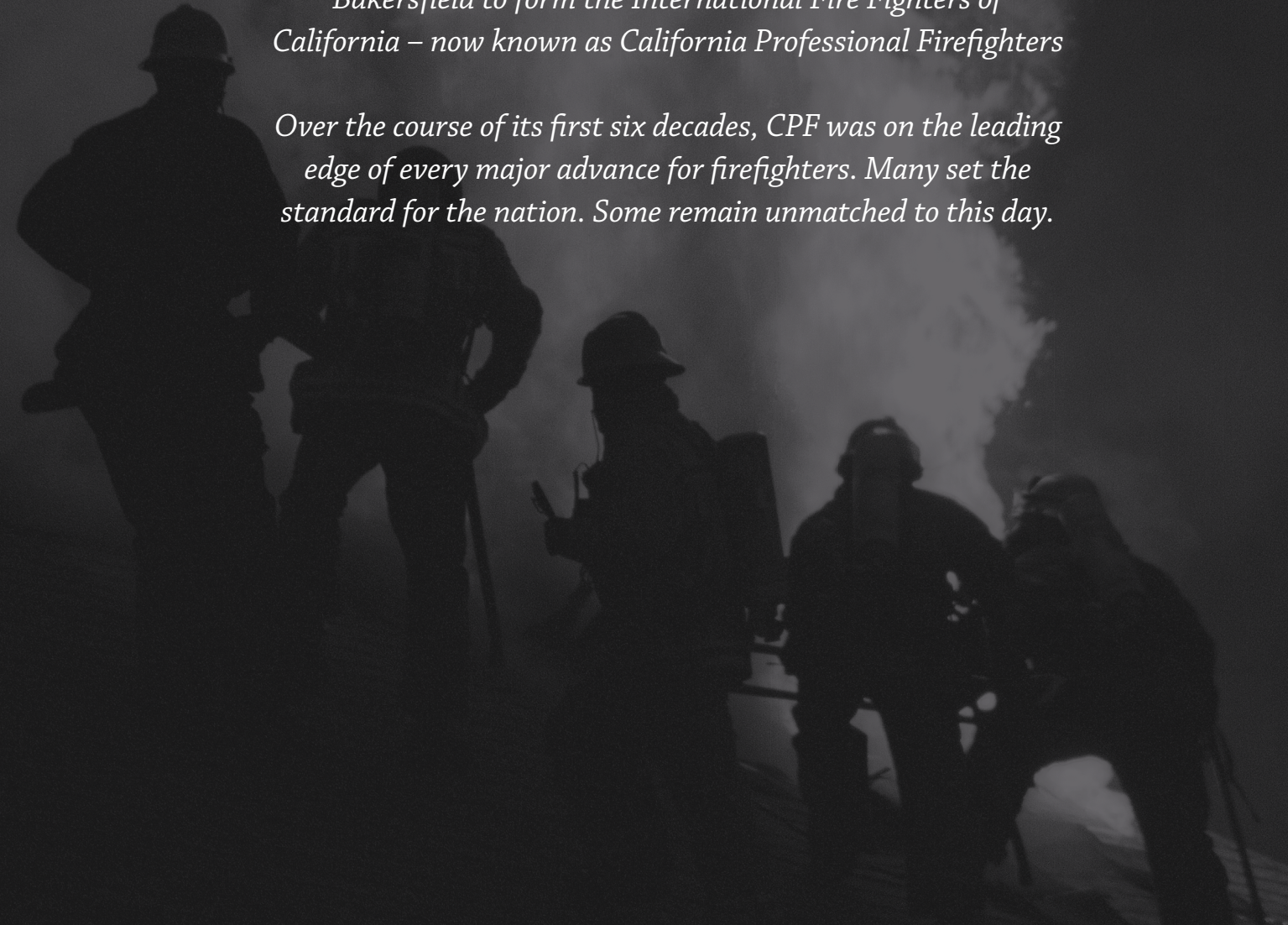
CPF'S LEGISLATIVE LEGACY

1938 – 2000

In the first half of the 20th Century, firefighters on the front lines were still mostly volunteer. For those who worked in paid departments, it was long hours, low pay, and survival.

*If a firefighter went down, it was "next man up."
In 1938, ten IAFF locals in California came together in Bakersfield to form the International Fire Fighters of California – now known as California Professional Firefighters*

Over the course of its first six decades, CPF was on the leading edge of every major advance for firefighters. Many set the standard for the nation. Some remain unmatched to this day.





Gov. Pat Brown (seated, center with FFFC leadership) signed AB 618 – firefighters right to organize – on May 26, 1959.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION – 1938-1960

RECOGNIZING THE RISK

AB 640 - Enacts the Heart, Lung and Hernia Presumption (1939)

Inadequate or non-existent breathing apparatus in fire departments – along with overwork and continuous exposure – was causing serious illness and death among firefighters. With a united voice, firefighters and all of labor came together to win passage of the nation’s second presumption law. Management – chiefly the League of California Cities – was intractably opposed, but firefighters had an ally in pro-labor Gov. Cuthbert Olson. The first of many examples of how having a seat at the table makes a difference in the everyday lives of firefighters.

THE RIGHT TO FIGHT TOGETHER

AB 618 - Firefighters Right to Organize (1959)

For the first half of the 20th Century, getting fired for union activity was standard stuff. But in 1952, South Pasadena went further, passing a city ordinance banning firefighters from unionizing. Almost immediately, working people rallied around firefighters, aided by the recent unification of the AFL and the CIO. When a pro-labor legislature and pro-labor Gov. Edmund G. “Pat” Brown were elected, AB 618 made firefighters the first public employees to be granted the right to organize in a union. Collective bargaining would come later, but the bill was a turning point for the public sector labor movement.

PROTECTING OUR MEMBERS – 1960-1978

PROGRESS OUT OF TRAGEDY

Personal Protective Equipment Standards - Cal/OSHA (1978)

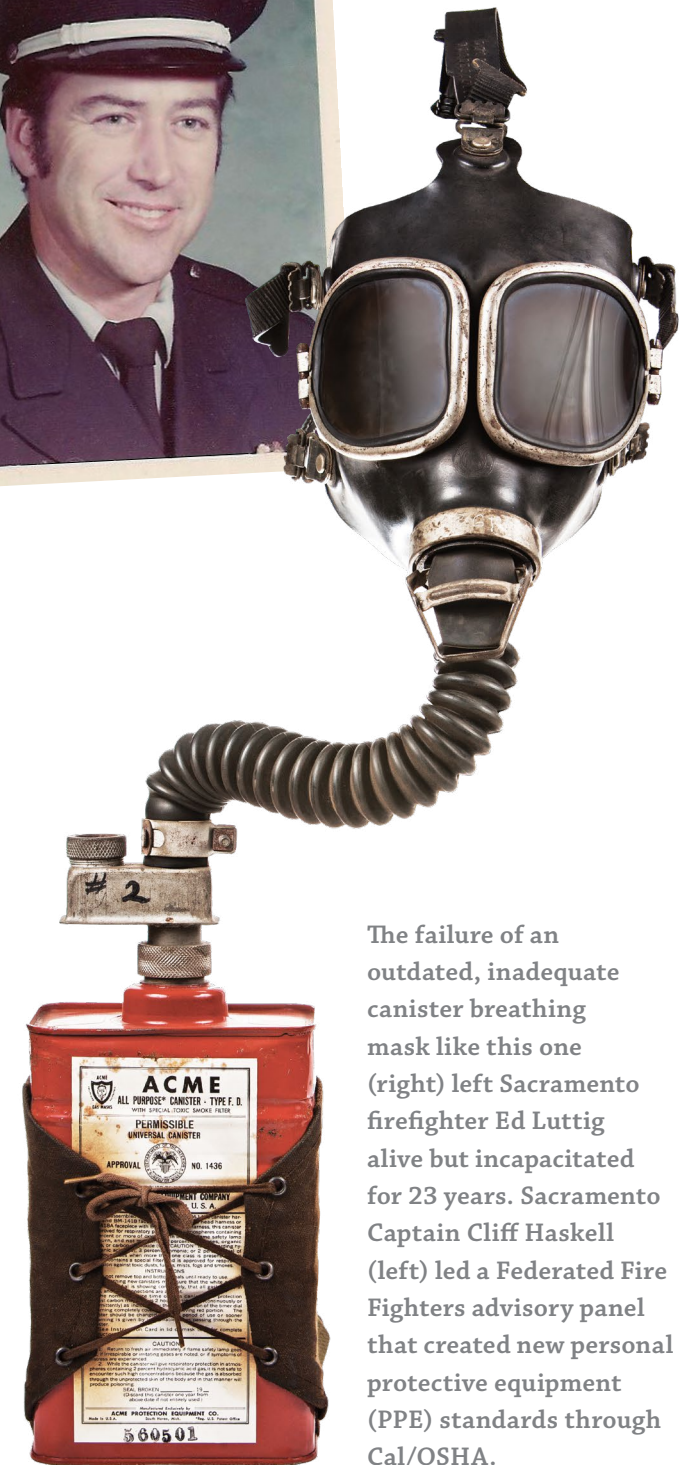
On June 2, 1967, Sacramento firefighter Edward Luttig was dragged unconscious and near death from a devastating apartment fire. The outdated cannister gas mask he was forced to use had a defect that caused flames to engulf his lungs, leaving him alive but in a semi-conscious state for the next 23 years. CPF – then known as Federated Fire Fighters of California (FFFC) – brought together firefighters to draft permanent firefighter PPE standards. Helmets, turnouts and footwear had to hold up to heat and flame tests and SCBA needed a full 30 minutes of air. Chiefs and local governments pushed back, but Cal/OSHA not only adopted the standards, but ordered the removal of old or unsafe gear.



SAVING LIVES, SAVING JOBS

SB 154 - Property-tax funding backfill for fire protection (1978)

The passage of the property-tax slashing Proposition 13 in June of 1978 brought with it a host of fiscal impacts for local government. The loss of revenue threatened public safety and firefighter jobs up and down the state. In the wake of the June vote, Federated Fire Fighters (the future CPF) connected with Republican Sen. William Campbell, a strong firefighter advocate. The resulting legislation – SB 164 – allocated \$400 million for city, county and special district fire protection. Signed by Gov. Jerry Brown, the measure saved hundreds, if not thousands of jobs. President Emeritus Dan Terry called it “one of the most important things we did while I was CPF president.”



The failure of an outdated, inadequate canister breathing mask like this one (right) left Sacramento firefighter Ed Luttig alive but incapacitated for 23 years. Sacramento Captain Cliff Haskell (left) led a Federated Fire Fighters advisory panel that created new personal protective equipment (PPE) standards through Cal/OSHA.

GROUNDBREAKING FIRSTS – 1978-2000

A FIRST FOR THE NATION

AB 3011 - Firefighter Cancer Presumption Law (1982)

Whittier firefighters Richard Rowland and Porter Griggers were on the same crew in April of 1973, mopping up a hazmat spill containing cancer-causing agents. Six years later, the two – now L.A. County firefighters – had something else in common: they both died of the same extremely rare form of cancer. In the wake of a CPF Convention resolution, AB 3011 was introduced by labor-friendly Assm. Art Torres. CPF President Dan Terry and governmental advocate Brian Hatch hand-delivered the legislation to every legislative office. The cause was taken up by powerful legislative allies – Assembly Speaker Willie Brown and President Pro Tem David Roberti. Signed by Gov. Jerry Brown in 1982, AB 3011 was the nation's first firefighter cancer presumption law.



CREATING EXCELLENCE IN THE FIRE SERVICE

SB 167 - California Firefighter Apprenticeship Training Funding (1986)

Throughout the 1970s, fire departments in California faced growing legal pressure to open their ranks to underrepresented groups. At the same time, training standards were outdated, voluntary and unfunded. Charged by Gov. Jerry Brown in 1982 with fixing these issues, CPF President Terry and the state fire marshal came up with a solution that changed the fire service forever – the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee. A true labor-management partnership, Cal-JAC not only built a standardized candidate selection system but developed rigorous and focused training standards. Four years after Cal-JAC was founded, SB 167 put money into the system, providing important training dollars for every department. Cal-JAC remains unmatched as a venue for building a better trained, more diverse fire service.

HONORING UNCOMMON COURAGE

AB 3198 - Establishing the California Firefighters Memorial (1992)

The idea of a memorial tribute to California's fallen firefighters had been on the mind of CPF President Dan Terry ever since he participated in the IAFF memorial ceremony. For Terry, though, it was not enough to put it anywhere – it needed to be on the grounds of the State Capitol. Only there would it truly demonstrate the level of honor and respect California's fallen heroes deserved. Putting a memorial at the Capitol required legislation, promoted by CPF and authored by then-Assemblymember Rusty Arieas. The signature of Gov. Pete Wilson in 1992 began a decade-long odyssey that included additional bills establishing the Memorial License Plate and Tax Checkoff. In 2002, the vision was realized with the unveiling of the Memorial in Capitol Park.

Securing Our Priorities

TWO DECADES OF CPF-SPONSORED MEASURES SIGNED INTO LAW

For more than eight decades, CPF's founding mission has been to benefit the lives and livelihoods of firefighters through legislative and political action.

For the past 20 years, the organization has combined skilled advocacy, determined political action and grassroots connection to build a legislative record that, quite simply, is unmatched in the entire labor movement.

The result has been a better fire service and safer, more secure and more prosperous firefighters, under Democratic and Republican administrations.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

HEALING OUR OWN

SB 542 – Establishes a presumption under workers' compensation for firefighters who suffer post-traumatic stress injury. (2019)

Over a career, firefighters experience horrors few can imagine. These emotional "exposures" can accumulate, producing mental health effects ranging from sleep loss to substance abuse to, sadly, suicide. Post-traumatic stress is an almost unavoidable job-related injury for firefighters. SB 542 adds PTSI to the list of firefighter presumptions under workers' compensation, a groundbreaking recognition of the perils of the job.

2002 AB 1847

Expands firefighter workers' compensation presumptions to include exposure to biochemical hazards.

2006 AB 2068

Maintains the right of some injured workers to pre-designate their treating physicians and see their own doctors if they get injured on the job.

2007 AB 338

Adjusts the two-year workers' compensation temporary disability (TD) benefit cap to provide injured workers benefits for up to five years from their date of injury. Also extends the time limit to receive benefits from two years to three years and provides that the limits toll whenever delays in medical care or late TD payments occur.

2008 AB 2754

Clarifies the public safety blood-borne pathogen presumption to ensure it applies to all types of MRSA.

2009 SB 186

Eliminates the sunset on the right of industrially-injured workers, including injured firefighters, to pre-designate their treating physicians for workers' compensation purposes.

2009 AB 1227

Extends "4850 Time" to specified public safety officers, including firefighters, regardless of the retirement system of which they are members.

2010 AB 2253

The Dallas Jones Cancer Presumption Act. Extends the public safety cancer presumption statute of limitations from five to 10 years.

2011 AB 585

Extends the public safety cancer presumption to firefighters serving Moffett Federal Airfield in the Bay Area and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

2012 SB 863

Reduces frictional costs in the workers' compensation system, speeds up medical care for injured workers and increases permanent disability indemnity benefits to injured workers.

2016 SB 1160

Substantial reform of workers' compensation utilization review (UR) and lien filing processes to strengthen protections against erroneous or automatic denials of worker benefits, lack of communication between an employee's physician and those of UR organization, potential conflicts of interest by third-party administrators and the overall lack of data about UR experience.

2019 SB 542

Establishes a rebuttable presumption for firefighters in workers' compensation law covering post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI).

2020 SB 1159

Establishes a rebuttable presumption for injuries, including illness or death, resulting from COVID-19, including firefighters, healthcare workers and law enforcement. Sunset in 2023.

2022 SB 1127

Shortens timelines for decisions of liability for presumptive claims by employers, and increases penalties for employers, third party administrators, and insurers that unreasonably deny workers' compensation claims for presumptive injuries.

2023 SB 623

Extends the sunset, to January 1, 2029, on the rebuttable presumption for firefighters in the workers' compensation law for PTSI established by SB 542 in 2019.

RETIREMENT SECURITY

2000 AB 1009

Pension security act protecting the purchasing power of retirees from the ravages of inflation.

2006 AB 3033

Provides '37 Act counties and CalPERS' contracting agencies the option of granting their firefighter members the choice of purchasing former federal firefighter service credit in the retirement system.

2006 AB 2244

Re-establishes three decades of law prior to the *Nolan v. City of Anaheim* decision, reaffirming that a CalPERS member may qualify for disability retirement by establishing that he or she "is incapacitated physically or mentally from the performance of his or her duties in the state service."

2009 SB 538

Clarifies Government Code Section 31663.15 to permit the Los Angeles Co. Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) to receive the necessary physical certification of a safety member upon returning from his or her disability leave before determining whether the member is subject to mandatory retirement, even if that leave extends beyond the month in which the member turns age 60.

2010 AB 1651

Enables retirement service credit to accrue for specified local public safety personnel, including firefighters, during furlough periods.

2013 AB 410

Permits a CalPERS' retired annuitant to reinstate to active employment without losing accrued retiree health benefits that may have been earned with their previous employer.

2016 AB 2028

Authorizes the restoration of CalPERS retirement service credit for wrongfully terminated CalPERS members, including firefighters.

2016 SB 1203

Authorizes a joint-powers authority (JPA) — formed on or after January 1, 2013 — to provide employees who transfer to the JPA the same classic, defined benefit plan or formula that they received from their respective employer prior to the JPA's formation.

2017 AB 1487

Limits the amount of time that a local public agency or school member of CalPERS can serve in an out-of-class or temporarily upgraded position.

2020 SB 2967

Prohibits employers from changing their contracts with CalPERS to exclude employees that had previously been included. Response to punitive City of Placentia decision to cut firefighters completely out of secure retirement after ending contract with Orange Co. Fire Authority.

2021 SB 278

Protects CalPERS retirees from having their bargained and paid-for benefits taken back due to disallowed compensation.

2023 AB 1020

Ensures that when retirees in a 1937 Act system are seeking an industrial disability retirement for an injury covered by a workers' compensation presumption, the burden of proof for that retirement is consistent with the presumption.

2024 AB 3025

Protects 1937 Act retirees from having their bargained and paid-for benefits taken back due to disallowed compensation.



WORKPLACE RIGHTS

OUR BILL OF RIGHTS

AB 220 – Enacts the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act, strengthening the rights of firefighters, paramedics and EMTs in disciplinary procedures, interrogation, punitive action and administrative appeals (2007)

One of the signature legislative accomplishments of the last two decades. Having been chastened by a stinging 2005 special-election defeat in which firefighters were visible and active, Gov. Schwarzenegger made peace with CPF and vowed to be an ally, not an adversary. His signature on the landmark Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights in 2007 gave California first responders the most sweeping workplace protection laws in the nation — a tribute to playing the long game, and reaching out across party lines.

2000 AB 1689

Protects the right of public workers to engage in lawful off-duty conduct without facing reprisal from employer.

2007 AB 220

The Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act, strengthened the workplace rights of firefighters.

2008 SB 1296

Clarifies that the superior courts will retain exclusive jurisdiction over actions involving interest arbitration.

2010 AB 2331

Allows jurisdictions to retain and utilize their existing grievance arbitration appeals process as an acceptable alternative to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process for issues arising under the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights (FBOR) Act.

2012 AB 1606

Clarifies impasse procedures to guarantee employee organization's right to request that the matter be submitted to a fact-finding procedure prior to imposing any settlement of employment terms.

2013 AB 537

Strengthens the MMBA contract ratification and arbitration agreement provisions, including requiring timely public vote and enforcement of arbitration agreements.

2022 AB 2556

Affirms the right of local firefighter employee organizations to charge non-members for the fair cost of representation in a discipline, grievance, arbitration, or administrative hearing.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

2005 AB 186

Requires that unclaimed funds in the state's Workplace Health and Safety Revolving Fund for penalties imposed on public fire departments for Cal-OSHA violation be allocated to the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Program (Cal-JAC), to establish and maintain effective occupational injury and illness prevention programs.

2014 SB 1019

Promotes a consumer's right to know by disclosing, and making disclosed information readily accessible, as to whether upholstered furniture manufactured or sold in California does, or does not, contain added flame retardant chemicals.

2014 AB 2146

Requires the Cal-OSHA Board, in consultation with the state Dept. of Industrial Relations, to complete a comprehensive review of all NFPA standards pertaining to firefighter PPE, and, if they're found to be better, encourages modifying regulations covering firefighter PPE to reflect NFPA standards.

2018 AB 2998

Bans sale of furniture, juvenile products that contain or are treated with toxic flame-retardant chemicals.

2019 AB 1116

Establishes confidentiality protection for conversations between firefighters and peer counselors and establishes statewide standards for peer support.

2020 SB 1044

Phases out use of Class B firefighting foams containing PFAS chemicals, which pose direct human health and environmental risks. Also requires notification of PFAS chemicals in firefighter PPE.

2023 AB 700

Establishes the California Firefighter Cancer Prevention and Research Program and designates an initial \$7 million for community based participatory research examining bio-markers of carcinogenic exposure and effect among California firefighters.

PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY

2005 AB 1356

Expands provision that ensures normal assignment of CAL FIRE resources during periods of critical fire weather conditions won't be blocked by local cooperative agreements.

2005 AB 287

Helps replace firefighting helicopters by allowing CAL FIRE to tap into available federal funds, as well as any available state funds, to replace aging helicopter fleet.

2006 AB 2231

Requires that the director of CalOES convene a working group to assess existing and future technologies that might expand transmission of public emergency service alerts through public-private partnerships.

2006 SB 156

If related federal funds are received, it requires the State Fire Marshal to contract with the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Program to develop curriculum criteria based on the recommendations made by the Emergency Response Training Advisory Committee, including training firefighters in their responsibilities as first responders to terrorism incidents.

2007 SB 629

Eliminates the requirement that a peace officer or firefighter who has been involved in an accident on duty submit written declaration of on-duty status to his or her auto insurance company.

2008 AB 2742

Adds leased or rented firefighting equipment to the existing list of eligible firefighting equipment for which the DMV may issue a restricted driver's license to a firefighter. It also eliminates needless drug testing for fire apparatus drivers already participating in a substance abuse detection program within the scope of their employment.

2011 ABX1 26

Eliminates California's redevelopment agencies and, in doing so, shores up much needed revenue for critical public services, including fire protection.

2011 ABX1 27

Provides an exemption to ABX1 26 if the redevelopment agency voluntarily agrees to provide funding to local agencies, including fire districts.

2012 AB 2298

Clarifies employer's liability for expenses incurred when the employer orders on-duty personnel to respond using a personal vehicle (when a department vehicle is needed but not available.)

2016 AB 898

Requires that a murdered firefighter's former fire department be notified by the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) or the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation when a parole hearing for the inmate convicted of that murder is pending (if the department registers to be notified.)

2018 AB 2380

Implements regulations restricting the use and access of private fire hand crews in California.

2024 AB/SB 107

The Budget Act of 2024 included funding to enact the bargained agreement to reduce CAL FIRE's workweek from 72 to 66 hours per week.



ADVANCING THE FIGHT FOR AN EQUITABLE WORKWEEK

AB/SB 107 - Budget Act of 2024: CAL FIRE 66 Hour Workweek (2024)

While nearly every municipal and county firefighter works a standardized 56 hour workweek, for decades CAL FIRE firefighters have worked a grueling 72 hours per week. When overtime and extended wildfire deployments are added to this schedule, it creates a dangerous and unsustainable workload that leads to burnout, mental strain, family difficulties, and exhaustion that can prove deadly. The Budget Act of 2024 included funding to implement the bargained agreement to hire nearly 3,000 CAL FIRE personnel that brings the workweek down to 66 hours - one step closer in the fight for 56.

EMS PROTECTIONS



2008 SB 997

Strengthens firefighter voice on the state Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Commission to include two additional gubernatorial appointees selected from a list of names submitted by the CPF: One appointee employed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the other employed by local government.

2011 AB 678

Allows local fire departments to submit certified public expenditures to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for unreimbursed Medi-Cal ground emergency medical transportation services for reimbursement by the federal government.

2014 SB 1438

Directs EMSA to develop standards and promulgate regulations allowing all prehospital emergency care personnel, including firefighters, to administer naloxone to reverse opioid overdose.

2015 SB 75

Allows governmental agencies that provide ground emergency medical transportation to Medi-Cal patients to capture lost reimbursements from managed care beneficiaries through the use of intergovernmental transfers.

2017 SB 432

Strengthens the notification process to prehospital emergency medical care personnel – including firefighters and paramedics – when they are exposed to a communicable disease while rendering care to the public.

2020 AB 1544

Creates Community Paramedicine or Triage to Alternate Destination Act, allowing local agencies to develop community paramedic services authorizing transport to alternative destinations for TB, frequent EMS users, hospice comfort care and mental health or sobering centers.

2021 AB 389

Codifies the “Fire-EMS Alliance” subcontracting model of EMS delivery, ensuring that counties with dependent fire districts have access to this proven cost-effective and efficient EMS model.

2023 AB 40

Holds hospitals accountable for excessive ambulance patient offload time (APOT) by ensuring that every LEMSA has a published APOT standard that does not exceed 30 minutes 90% of the time, as well as requiring hospitals to publish protocols for reducing APOT when it exceeds the adopted standard for more than one month.

2024 SB 1180

Authorizes reimbursement from both private healthcare plans and Medi-Cal for community paramedicine and triage to alternate destination programs, ensuring their financial viability.

GOVERNMENT REFORM

2002 AB 719

Facilitates participation in elections by firefighters and others by allowing voters to file for permanent absentee voter status.

2011 AB 506

Provides that a local public entity may file under federal bankruptcy law only after participating in a confidential mediation with specified interested parties, unless interested parties previously enter an agreement for debt readjustment, or if the mediator certifies in writing that continued mediation will not contribute to a resolution of the dispute.

2011 AB 936

Guards against backdoor budget shortfalls by requiring a public body or a redevelopment agency (RDA) to publicly adopt a resolution prior to forgiving a loan, advance or indebtedness.

2013 SB 311

Requires that charter conversion and substantive employee benefit change proposals be placed on the statewide general election ballot, encouraging participation and preventing sneak attacks on employee benefits.

2013 SB 594

Strengthens state by banning local governments from using public funds for campaign purposes, and opens the books on shadowy taxpayer-financed “non-public funds” accounts used by taxpayer-financed non-profits like the League of California Cities.

2014 SB 556

Requires private contractors that provide fire, EMS or ambulance services and display agency logo also display a disclaimer indicating that they are not government employees.

2015 SB 239

Requires a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) to review and approve contracts for fire protection services between the state or local public agencies.

EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE 9-1-1 RESPONSE

SB 438 – Prohibits local agencies from contracting 9-1-1 dispatch to private, for-profit providers, preserving public agency accountability for vital emergency response services. (2019)

The most sacred responsibility of local government is protecting the lives and safety of its residents. But local EMS agencies tried to step in and hand off the lynchpin of this mandate – 9-1-1 response – to privateers, a for-profit model that puts the bottom line ahead of fast response and accountability. SB 438 put the kibosh on this dangerous trend, banning contracts to for-profit 9-1-1 dispatch providers.

2019 SB 438

Bans local agencies from contracting 9-1-1 fire and EMS dispatch to private, for-profit providers. Local agencies may only enter into 9-1-1 dispatch contracts with another local agency or through a joint-powers agreement.

2024 ACA 1/ACA 10

The passage of these two constitutional amendments placed Proposition 5 on the ballot, giving voters the ability to lower the outdated vote threshold for infrastructure and public safety bonds.



PROTECTING JOB SECURITY

2004 AB 1929

Expands Cal-JAC displaced firefighter hiring list to include any displaced career state or local government firefighter who has been laid-off for budget reasons, and allows departments the option to extend hiring consideration to these displaced fire service personnel, as they do with those displaced by military base closures.

2014 AB 2438

Protects training officers by clarifying that training on firefighting equipment operation may be conducted by a firefighter who possesses a valid class A or B license, a class A or B license restricted to the operation of firefighting equipment, or a class C license with a firefighter endorsement.

2017 AB 579

Builds the profession by requiring the Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) — in conjunction with the Cal-JAC — to develop a statewide firefighter pre-apprenticeship program that will aid local fire agencies in recruiting candidates from underrepresented groups.

2021 AB 450

Ensures balanced and impartial adjudication of discipline by establishing the Paramedic Disciplinary Review Board to oversee the final determination of discipline for paramedic licensure at the state level.



HONORING OUR FALLEN ... PROTECTING THEIR FAMILIES

2000 AB 1850

Guaranteed free tuition at University of California and California State University for the spouses of fallen firefighters and the spouses and children of fallen military personnel.

2001 AB 1695

Protected the futures of firefighter families by guaranteeing full pensions for survivors of firefighters with 20 or more years on the job.

2005 AB 1655

Provides Alan Pattee public higher education tuition waiver benefits to a stepchild of a fallen firefighter.

2005 AB 483

Extends the sunset date of the voluntary California Firefighters' Memorial Fund state personal income tax check-off.

2006 AB 2292

Provides that death benefits due under workers' compensation law shall not have to be paid to the state when death benefits are paid to the estate of a deceased employee.

2006 SB 1040

Clarifies that there is no distinction between an adopted stepchild and a non-adopted stepchild who is a dependent of a fallen firefighter for the purposes of establishing eligibility for Alan Pattee public higher education tuition waiver benefits.

2007 AB 384

Clarifies that the uninsured survivors of California's fallen federal firefighters are eligible to participate in a state program that assists uninsured spouses and children of fallen firefighters and police officers in purchasing medical and dental benefits.

2007 SB 582

Clarifies firefighters' and other public safety officers' ability to collect on the street for qualified charitable causes, such as fill-the-boot campaigns.

2008 AB 2287

Clarifies a program administered by CalPERS that helps uninsured spouses and children of fallen firefighters and police officers buy medical and dental benefits, and makes it easier for employers of a deceased firefighter or peace officer to properly report a death of an employee to CalPERS when there are survivors who might be eligible for the medical and dental benefits program.

STANDING UP FOR FALLEN FIREFIGHTER FAMILIES

AB 2164 – Clarifies that higher education tuition waivers for fallen firefighter survivors apply for all line-of-duty deaths, whether on the front lines or from job-related illness (2016)

Deep in the bowels of the Cal State University bureaucracy, someone decided that the son of fallen L.A. County firefighter John Mazzocco didn't deserve the fee waiver that had been granted for decades because Brother Mazzocco didn't die on the front lines. His widow went to Local 1014 who came to CPF. The University dug in its heels, CPF introduced AB 2164, which flew through the Legislature and was signed by Gov. Brown, protecting future children from the whims of a faceless bureaucrat.

2010 SB 88

Eliminates the short 60-day window in which a surviving spouse of a fallen firefighter is otherwise required to transfer a firefighter license plate into his or her name. It also allows other specified survivors to elect to keep the plate for personal memorabilia purposes in the event there is no surviving spouse.

2014 AB 1035

Doubles the statute of limitations for filing survivor-related workers' compensation death benefit claims from 240 weeks to 480 weeks if the job-caused injury is cancer, tuberculosis or blood-borne infectious disease and the original "date of injury" was within an officer's active service (law sunsets December 31, 2018).

2016 AB 2164

Clarifies that the Alan Pattee public higher education tuition waiver is awarded to eligible firefighter survivors for all line of duty deaths — whether from an industrial injury or a job-related illness.

2017 AB 1338

Allows an eligible survivor of a fallen firefighter to independently apply for and receive a "California Firefighter" specialty license plate from the

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for display on their automobile, truck, trailer or motorcycle.

2018 AB 2554

Clarifies that the fallen firefighter college benefit for California firefighters extends to the families of federal firefighters in California.

2022 SB 850

Closes a loophole that had previously prevented the partners and children of firefighters who die in the line of duty from receiving special death benefits if the parents were not legally married.

2023 AB 621

Ensures that the survivors of fallen state safety members, including CAL FIRE 2881 members, are able to receive both the CalPERS special death benefit and the death benefit from the workers' compensation system, ending a decades' long inequity.



IN REMEMBRANCE

2004 SCR 53

Designates State Highway Routes 78 and 79 from Santa Ysabel to Julian, and State Highway Route 79 from Julian to Cuyamaca, in San Diego County as the "Firefighter Steven Rucker Memorial Highway."

2007 ACR 4

Designates State Highway Route 243 as the "Esperanza Firefighters Memorial Highway" in memory of the firefighters of Engine Company #57 who lost their lives battling the 2006 Esperanza fire in Riverside.

2007 ACR 10

Designates the portion of State Highway Route 10, from the Beaumont Avenue/Highway Route 79 exit to the Sunset Avenue exit, in the County of Riverside, as the "CDF Firefighter Chris Kanton Memorial Highway."

2008 ACR 107

Dedicates a portion of State Highway Route 215 between the Ramona Expressway Exit and its junction with State Route 74 as the "CDF Firefighter John D. Guthrie Memorial Highway."

2010 ACR 106

Designates a portion of State Highway Route 156, from State Highway Route 25 to State Highway Route 101, as the "CAL FIRE Firefighter Matt Will Memorial Highway."

2017 ACR 47

Designates the portion of State Route 165, located between Berkeley Drive and Pioneer Road in the County of Merced, as "CAL FIRE Firefighter Andrew Maloney Memorial Highway".

2017 ACR 135

Designates a stretch of U.S. Highway 101, from South Seaward Ave. to Vista, Del Mar Dr. in the County of Ventura, as the "Ventura County Fire Engineer Ryan Osler Memorial Highway."



Standing Our Ground

HARMFUL MEASURES BLOCKED BY CPF

Succeeding for our members means more than just running up the bill tally. Our biggest fights always come against those who mean us harm. As 2003 turned into 2004, firefighters – indeed all public workers – faced an openly hostile Schwarzenegger administration bent on breaking our union. Over the subsequent decade and a half, nearly five dozen hostile bills were blocked through CPF’s focused, ever-watchful legislative professionals. And that doesn’t count the innumerable battles our adversaries chose not to fight because they knew what was coming their way.

DEFENDING JOB SECURITY

2004 SCA 15

Would have asked voters to allow the governor to require any state agency to contract with a private entity for the delivery of that agency’s services or for the performance of its activities.

2004 ACA 28

Would have authorized the governor, or any department director, executive officer or other specified chief executive, to execute contracts with private entities for the purpose of performing the duties and responsibilities that are otherwise under their supervision.

2004 AB 1646

Another failed attempt at bill that would have allowed the privatization of fire protection and emergency medical services on community colleges, University of California and California State University campuses, as well as Hastings College of Law.

2014 AB 1980

Would have enabled a general law city to eliminate its public fire or police department if an ordinance to do so is approved at a local election via a majority of voters within that jurisdiction.

2019 AB 1211

Could have weakened fire and EMS standards and training for the purpose of allowing formerly incarcerated felons to become firefighters.

2022 AB 1993

Would have mandated that employees and contractors of employees be vaccinated for COVID-19.

FIGHTING PRIVATIZATION

SCA 15 – Would have cleared the way for the governor to require any state agency to contract with private entities for that agency’s services (2004)

At the height of its early anti-union crusade, the Schwarzenegger administration bombarded the Legislature with proposals to allow contracting out of public services. SCA 15 was one of a number of such measures CPF and other labor groups successfully blocked. Schwarzenegger eventually dropped his privatization efforts, but as late as 2014 CPF fought off a measure (AB 1980) that could have privatized local public fire or police services.

2011

When public officials in San Carlos were threatening to outsource the city’s fire and emergency services to the Wackenhut firm, CPF took action. Then-California Attorney General, and current Vice President, Kamala Harris promptly issued a legal opinion that effectively took privatization off the table for every general law city in the state.



DEFENDING WORKERS' COMPENSATION

2004 ABX4 1

Among other things, this bill would have eliminated a worker's ability to predesignate a physician, required a worker to demonstrate "substantial" work causation for any cumulative injury, and required an injured worker to demonstrate "predominant" work causation for a work-related injury.

2004 AB 2773

Would have limited various workers' compensation-related benefits paid to a retired, injured public employee in instances where he or she is receiving a disability retirement allowance.

2005 SB 916

Could have required the suspension or reduction of workers' compensation indemnity benefits – including disability benefits and lifetime pension benefits – that a retired, injured worker, including an injured firefighter, may receive if he or she is also receiving a retirement allowance.

2007 AB 1624

Would have slashed disability retirement protections for occupationally injured workers, including firefighters.

2007 AB 1341

Would have taken away the minimum guaranteed temporary disability (TD) benefit level for workers earning the lowest wages.

2008 AB 1699

Would have denied seasonal personnel the 15 percent bump up in permanent disability (PD) benefits if they are not returned to work, yet would have allowed for the 15 percent bump down to apply, should injured workers return to work.

2010 AB 516

Would have reduced maximum weekly temporary disability (TD) benefits and revert them to the 2007 level. In addition, this bill would have also eliminated the minimum temporary disability rate.

2013 SB 626

Would have attacked the independence of independent medical review, undermining the entire dispute resolution process, and also would have made it harder for injured firefighters to receive compensation for documented post-traumatic stress injuries.

2014 AB 2383

Would have essentially repealed 4850 time for California's occupationally-injured public safety officers in instances where they sustain cumulative injuries in the course of performing their job-related duties.

DEFENDING RETIREMENT SECURITY

PROTECTING SECURE PENSIONS

ACA 5 – Would have effectively ended secure pensions by forcing new state and local employees, including firefighters, into defined-contribution retirement plans (2005)

Much of the last decade and a half has been defined by efforts to protect the retirement security of the men and women on the front lines. Egged on by the new Schwarzenegger administration, then-Assemblyman Keith Richman tried to abolish pensions with one swift stroke. He failed in the Legislature. When Schwarzenegger tried to put the same flawed measure on the statewide ballot, he endured the first of a series of defeats that turned him from an adversary to a grudging ally on pension security.

2004 ACA 5

Would have asked voters to amend the state's constitution to require all newly hired state and local government employees, including firefighters, to be enrolled in a defined contribution (DC) retirement plan, beginning July 1, 2007.

2005 ABX1 3

Would have established defined contribution plans and hybrid plans for public employees hired on and after July 1, 2007, including firefighters, and make various changes to the laws governing public employee retirement systems.

2005 ACAX1 1

Would have asked voters to amend the state constitution to prohibit all non-federal public employees in California hired on or after July 1, 2007 from enrolling in a defined benefit plan.

2005 ACAX1 8

Would have asked voters to amend the state constitution to require any person hired by a California public agency on or after July 1, 2007, including state and local fire service personnel to enroll only in a hybrid retirement plan or in a defined contribution retirement plan. It would have prohibited such personnel from enrolling in a defined benefit retirement plan.

2005 SBX1 12

Would have eliminated the availability of the 2% @ 55 and 3% @ 60 retirement formulas for specified members of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) hired on or after January 1, 2006.

2005 SBX1 11

Would have deleted requirement placed on of a '37 Act county retirement board when retiring a permanently incapacitated member. Instead, it would have enabled a '37 Act retirement board to independently retire a disabled member if it deems he/she to be permanently incapacitated for the performance of their service duties.

2005 SBX1 10

Would have forced state and local government public employees hired on and after July 1, 2007 into hybrid retirement plans.

2005 SBX1 7

Would have allowed any amendment to existing retirement formulas, and new retirement formulas affecting certain CalPERS members to only apply to service performed by the member on and after the operative date of that amendment.

2005 SBX1 6

Would have eliminated the single-highest year standard in favor of a 36-month average for the purposes of determining a CalPERS member's retirement allowance.

2006 ACA 23

Would have asked voters to amend the state constitution to outlaw defined benefit (DB) retirement plans for all state and local firefighters effective July 1, 2007.

2008 AB 2024

Would have discontinued the pension portion of a disability retirement allowance received by a member of the California Public Employees' Retirement System.

2019 SB 341

A dagger aimed at the heart of retirement security, SB 341 would have instituted a range of restrictive changes aimed at artificially inflating the risks to California's public pension systems.

DEFENDING PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING

2009 AB 783

Would have required all statutorily-created state agencies, boards and commissions that are funded by General Fund revenues, except for the Franchise Tax Board, to be repealed on January 1, 2022.

2015 AB 974

Would have allowed successor agencies of dissolved redevelopment agencies (RDAs) to divert millions of dollars in bond proceeds that were derived from bonds issued between January 1, 2011 and June 28, 2011.

2014 AB 2493

Would have permitted 39 successor agencies of dissolved redevelopment agencies (RDAs) to divert up to \$750 million in bond proceeds that were derived from bonds issues between January 1, 2011 and June 28, 2011.

2014 SB 1129

Would have made changes to the law governing the dissolution of redevelopment agencies (RDAs) that would have punished fire protection districts that had their property taxes diverted away from public safety services and into RDAs.

2009 AB 1004

Would have weakened a fire department's right to recoup some of the costs associated with providing critical services to our communities.

2013 SB 604

Would have adversely impacted firefighter fill-the-boot charitable campaigns.

DEFENDING UNION RIGHTS

2004 AB 2052

Would have repealed Section 923 of the Labor Code, which is the foundation on which California allows individuals to organize and engage in employment collective bargaining.

2010 SB 1180

Would have turned California into a so-called "right to work" state where workers are entitled to all of the benefits of union membership, but cannot be compelled to pay their fair share for that representation.

2011 AB 1179

Sought to deny the right of union members to use payroll deductions for political purposes.

2011 SB 524

Would have eliminated the ability of California's public employees to collectively bargain with their employer for retroactive retirement benefits, as well as prohibited the retroactive application of an adjustment to the formula used to calculate an employee's retirement.

2011 SB 527

Would have essentially eliminated the ability of California's public employees to collectively bargain with their employer for pension benefits.

2019 AB 249

Would have made it easier for local agencies to pressure firefighters and other workers not to join a union, and authorized taking pay away from employees that encourage workers to join or stay in a union.

DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE

SB 527 – Would have ended the right of public employees to negotiate with their employer on retirement security issues

California firefighters were the first public employees to win the right to organize, and that right has been under attack pretty much ever since. As part of their relentless assault on pensions, anti-union activists sought to end the ability of local unions to collectively bargain their retirement benefits. The measure went nowhere.



DEFENDING HEALTH AND SAFETY

2004 AB 2985

Would have threatened firefighter health coverage by suspending legal requirements for employment-based health care coverage under the Health Insurance Act.

2007 SB 199

Would have created a disincentive for employers to provide quality health plan options for their employees by encouraging costly catastrophic health plan coverage rather than plans with lower deductibles.

2008 SBX1 23

Would have created a disincentive for employers to provide quality health plan options for their employees by encouraging costly catastrophic health plan coverage rather than plans with lower deductibles.

2009 SB 628

Second failed attempt at legislation that would have allowed underfunding of health care by creating an exemption to statutory minimum employer-paid health care contributions for active and retired employees of a PEMHCA contracting agency.

2024 SB 1432

Would have granted a blanket extension to the deadline for hospitals to meet critical seismic safety standards, putting both patients and first responders at risk in the event of a catastrophic earthquake.

A Seat at the Table

Success in shaping policy doesn't just happen under the Capitol Dome. An array of state boards, commissions, task forces and working groups often are in the middle of enforcing and implementing policies established by the Legislature. Over the past decade and a half, CPF has placed firefighters on every meaningful state commission that touches the fire service. On those most central to the lives and livelihoods of firefighters, CPF has multiple members. All this ensures that the firefighter voice continues to be influential even after the laws are on the books.

State Board of Fire Services

Brian K. Rice	California Professional Firefighters
Dan Terry	Cal-JAC (ex officio)
Peter Munoa	CAL FIRE Local 2881
Dave Gillotte	L.A. County Local 1014
Frank Lima	California Labor Federation

Emergency Medical Services Commission

Sean Burrows	Chair, EMS Commission Alameda Co. Firefighters Local 55
Todd Rausser	CAL FIRE Local 2881
Jodie Pierce	San Diego Local 145
Dr. Marc Gautreau	Vice Chair, EMS Commission San Jose Fire Department Medical Director
Lamont Nguyen	Long Beach Local 372

Statewide Training & Education Advisory Committee

Office of State Fire Marshal	
John Bagala	Marin Professional FFs Local 1775
Taral Brideau	Cal-JAC
Glenn Pavlovsky	Huntington Beach Local 3354

State Building Standards Commission

Juvilyn Alegre	San Diego Local 145
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Seismic Safety Commission

Vince Wells	Contra Costa County Local 1230
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California Apprenticeship Council

Yvonne de la Peña	Cal-JAC
Dan Terry	Cal-JAC (ex officio)

Commission on Health & Safety & Workers' Comp

Meagan Subers	California Professional Firefighters
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California Volunteers Commission

Darren Dow	CAL FIRE Local 2881
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FIRESCOPE

Brian K. Rice	California Professional Firefighters
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Board of Pilot Commissioners, SF, San Pablo & Suisun Bays

Jennifer Schmid	Oakland Firefighters Local 55
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Paramedic Disciplinary Review Board

Jesse Conner	San Diego Firefighters Local 145
Richard Ramirez	UFLAC Local 112
Jane Kang	San Francisco Local 798

Occupational Safety & Health Standards Board

Derek Urwin	L.A. County Local 1014
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California Earthquake Authority

Steven Hayes	Gilroy Fire Fighters Local 2805
Ben Kim	Alameda City Firefighters Local 689

Leading From the Front

In California, many of the most important (and most dangerous) laws aren't made at the State Capitol. Instead, they are decided by voters through ballot initiatives. During the Schwarzenegger and Brown years, CPF has taken positions on dozens of ballot measures touching firefighters and their families. When the potential (or the risk) has been greatest, CPF stepped up its efforts, in many cases becoming the face of the campaign.

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- 1998 Prop. 226** CPF: **Oppose** **DEFEATED**
Silenced united labor voice in political action
 - 2004 Prop. 1A** CPF: **Support** **PASSED**
Protected local revenues from state budget raids
 - 2005 Prop. 75** CPF: **Oppose** **DEFEATED**
Second bid to silence strong union voice in political action
 - 2005 Prop. 76** CPF: **Oppose** **DEFEATED**
Gave governor near-dictatorial budget powers, threatened public safety funding
 - 2012 Prop. 32** CPF: **Oppose** **DEFEATED**
Another attempt to silence strong union voice in political action
 - 2014 Prop. 42** CPF: **Support** **PASSED**
Strengthened open meeting & public records laws on local government
 - 2016 Prop. 53** CPF: **Oppose** **DEFEATED**
Special-interest attack on local control, threatened emergency disaster funding
 - 2020 Prop. 19** CPF: **Support** **PASSED**
Secures critical property-tax funds for local fire districts left behind after Prop. 13
 - 2024 Taxpayer Deception Act** CPF: **Oppose** **DEFEATED**
Attack on public funding removed from the ballot as unconstitutional

PROTECTING YOUR UNITED VOICE

- 1998 Proposition 226 DEFEATED**
- 2005 Proposition 75 DEFEATED**
- 2012 Proposition 32 DEFEATED**

It's the pipe dream of anti-union hard liners everywhere – cut off working peoples' right to participate in the political process. In 1998, the first "paycheck deception" initiative – Proposition 226 – was defeated with a strong labor push anchored by front line firefighters. Seven years later, then Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger launched an expensive 2005 special-election power grab that included Prop. 75, a second effort to silence labor's strong, united voice. CPF members were in the governor's face, "chasing Arnold" at every turn. Prop. 75 and four other antiworker measures were swept away by voters. Seven years later, hardline anti-union activists tried once again with Prop. 32, and once again CPF put its money and its membership out front, and voters defeated Prop. 32 by an even wider margin.

**ONE TEAM
ONE FIGHT**

California Professional Firefighters
1780 Creekside Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833