



PROP. HEALTH

VOTE NOV. 3



PROP. HEALTH 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. Health is a proposal on the Nov. 3 ballot to protect the future of the Cottleville Fire Protection District and the firefighters who keep the community safe.

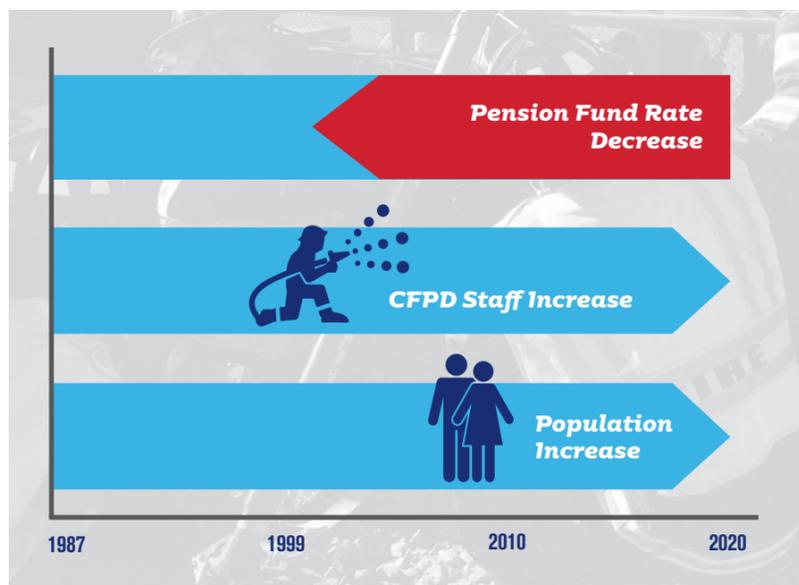
It would provide adequate funding for the District's pension program, which supports retirement for our firefighters. If approved by voters, it would cost the owner of a \$250,000 home \$3.56 a month, around the cost of a box of cereal.

PROP. HEALTH Would Support The First Pension Fund Update In Decades

More than 20 years ago, the community made the commitment to provide a reasonable retirement package to Cottleville firefighters by approving a pension fund.

Since then, our community's population has tripled and our number of firefighters has grown from 33 to 53. This growth, combined with fluctuations in the economy and state regulations, have reduced funding levels for our firefighters' retirement program.

Because of sound fiscal management, the District has been able to fund existing pension commitments without a rate increase, or using general operating funds. Unfortunately, this is no longer feasible without additional funding.



PROTECT THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY

PROP. HEALTH 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 throughout 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. Of the original 13 CFPD firefighters hired more than 30 years ago, only two were able to retire upon leaving service on the firetruck. Nearly 70% died in the line of duty, became disabled or had to move to an administrative position within the District that required less physical activity before retiring.

More than 33% of the District's firefighters are in their 50s and 60s.

Today, working to the point of retirement means a firefighter needs to stay on active duty until they are well into their 60s. The median age for our Cottleville firefighters is 47 years old, with over a third of the department in their 50s and 60s.

Without additional funding for the pension program, the average age of our firefighters will continue to increase, and money from the general operating fund, which is 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.

CANCER IS THE NO. 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.

Approximately 20% of firefighters and paramedics suffer from **POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)**, compared to 3.5% of the general population.

Suicide rates among firefighters are estimated to be **10 TIMES GREATER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.**

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

INCREASED EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 and other communicable diseases is unavoidable for first responders, whose job requires frequent and sustained interactions with the general public.

The dangers of the job increase the longer a firefighter serves and make 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. Health would protect the health of our firefighters by giving them the opportunity to retire before they become disabled or receive a life-threatening medical diagnosis, and protect the level of emergency services our community receives.

HOW TO VOTE

In-Person

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

By Mail

1. Request ballot by 5 p.m. Oct. 21
2. Receive ballot in mail
3. Complete ballot and have it notarized
4. 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

1. Request ballot by 5 p.m. Oct. 21
2. Receive ballot in mail
3. Complete ballot and have it notarized, if needed
4. Mail ballot to Election Authority, must arrive by Nov. 3 **or** Deliver ballot to Election Authority by 7 p.m. 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.

Phone: 636.949.7550

Website: sccmo.org/410/Election-Authority

Address: 397 Turner Blvd., St. Peters, MO 63376

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.

PROP. HEALTH

Learn More

Cottlevillefpd.org or call 636.447.6655.

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