



From The Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY)
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Contacts: Don Hoffman (212) 981-5118; (414) 687-7925
Jennifer Gundersen (212) 981-5142

Fire Service Organizations Join Forces to Urge Members to Register to Vote

Trio of Fire Service Groups Hope to Register Thousands of Service Members Utilizing Social Media and Web Outlets

NEW YORK-The Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY), New York State Association of Fire Chiefs (NYSAFC), and the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York announced today an all out effort to register thousands of fire service members in time for them to be eligible to vote in the general election on November 2, 2010, utilizing the newly created website www.firefightersvote.com.

A countdown clock to the days left to register is ticking away on Facebook and other web outlets of each of the organizations encouraging members to vote. Mail registration applications must be postmarked no later than October 8th and received by the board of elections not later than October 13th to be eligible to vote in the General Election. If registering in person your application must be received no later than October 8th except, if you have been honorably discharged from the military or have become a naturalized citizen since October 8th, you may register in person at the board of elections up until October 22nd. Please visit www.firefightersvote.com to download the necessary forms and full details on the registration process.

This year every member of the New York State Legislature is up for re-election, not to mention the governorship and other statewide offices. FASNY and its partners believe it's important to get firefighters, families and their friends involved in this great opportunity to vote, in order to have a say in New York State government.

While each of these fire service groups is different, they all share some of the same challenges. "It's imperative we work with other fire service groups to get the word out about how important it is to register, and ultimately vote in every election," said David Jacobowitz, President of FASNY. "There are more than 100,000 volunteer firefighters and 30,000 volunteer EMS personnel in the state of New York. If you add their family and friends we are talking about a group that could number a half million people. This makes for a large voting bloc that can make the difference in close elections from one part of the state to the other. Together, we can make our voice heard at the ballot box."

In order to meet the goals of the campaign, the fire service groups have come up with a number of different ways to not only get the word out about the importance of voting, but to provide different resources to facilitate the voting process. In addition to the website, fire departments across the state will have access to materials such as posters, displays, and informational handouts, all designed to get those registered out to vote.

“In a time when people seem to feel that government is disconnected from their daily lives, there can be no activity of greater importance than participation through voting. Regardless of an individual’s party affiliation or how they feel on different issues, the right, and obligation to vote is something that must be taken seriously, and exercised,” said Chief Alfonso Varlaro, President of NYSAFC. “This effort will help make it easier for members of New York’s Fire Service; both volunteer and career, to exercise their rights as citizens of this great country and state. We at the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs urge each member of the fire service and their families, if you’re registered, vote, if you’re not registered do so today.”

“The Association of Fire District Officers see this as yet another opportunity to work together with FASNY and NYSAFC to educate and encourage participation in our legislative process,” said John Loscalzo, President of the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York. “We believe in these challenging times, an educated commissioner, firefighter or EMS provider can be even more valuable to our local communities. Those who respond to emergencies in their districts, can work together by voting to ensure the residents receive the best, cost effective care possible.”

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