

Resolution No. 50

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Legislative

Re: FIREPAC Per Capita Increase

1 WHEREAS, the International Association of Fire
2 Fighters has long been committed to educating its
3 members on legislative and political issues that
4 directly impact their jobs, pay, health, safety,
5 pensions and family since it was passed by the
6 delegates in 1986 with the passage of Resolution 26;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, it is important for IAFF members
9 and their families to be informed about key
10 legislative issues before the Congress and Parliament
11 that directly affect their professions, so that they may
12 make informed decisions on Election Day about who
13 should represent them at the federal, state, provincial
14 and local level of government, the IAFF and
15 FIREPAC must have sufficient resources to
16 communicate with its members about how elected
17 officials and candidates stand on fire service issues;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the International Association of Fire
20 Fighters has consistently focused on its “basket of
21 issues” when communicating with its members and
22 families on candidates and elections as that is the role
23 of the union; and

24 WHEREAS, FIREPAC supports the IAFF in
25 achieving its legislative and political goals by
26 educating federal candidates on issues important to
27 the nations’ professional fire fighters and emergency
28 medical personnel like the James Zadroga 9/11
29 Health & Compensation Reauthorization Act, repeal

30 of the Cadillac Tax in the Affordable Care Act,
31 continued funding of the SAFER and FIRE Acts,
32 Defending Public Safety Employees Retirement Act,
33 national collective bargaining, presumptive disability
34 and banning of contracting out for federal fire
35 fighters, and in Canada we have achieved success in
36 CPP reform, criminal code changes, HazMat
37 Funding, Pandemic protection for fire fighters and
38 most recently support for PTSI and the Public Safety
39 Officers Compensation in the form of the Canadian
40 Community Heroes fund; and

41 WHEREAS, the IAFF has been recognized as a
42 major player in Congress and Parliament, the IAFF
43 must be able to maintain and expand its influence in
44 the political and legislative arena and increase
45 involvement in political activities that have a direct
46 impact on its legislative priorities; and

47 WHEREAS, the IAFF and FIREPAC must have
48 the necessary funds and resources to fight anti-union
49 ballot referendums, initiatives and legislative attacks
50 on our jobs, pay, benefits, health and safety; and

51 WHEREAS, the IAFF at the national level had
52 traditionally focused on federal elections while state,
53 provincial and local affiliates dealt with non-federal
54 elections at the state, provincial and local level; and

55 WHEREAS, the IAFF made a major decision in
56 early 2011 to pivot some of its FIREPAC resources
57 to help state and provincial associations elect
58 candidates who have supportive of our members at
59 the state and provincial, or worked to defeat those
60 that opposed our members; and

61 WHEREAS, FIREPAC's assistance to state and
62 provincial candidates reached an all-time high during

63 the 2015-2016 election cycle when FIREPAC
64 expended 54 percent of its resources at the state and
65 provincial level; and

66 WHEREAS, FIREPAC's work in Canada at the
67 Provincial level has led to presumptive legislation,
68 including PTSI coverage in every province
69 containing IAFF Locals, and is now yielding support
70 for expanding the role of fire fighters in EMS; and

71 WHEREAS, the IAFF to maintain our legislative
72 and political successes at the federal, state, provincial
73 and local levels needs to be prepared to support those
74 elected officials who have stood with us, and who
75 have come under attack over the past several years
76 for standing up for our members in a political
77 environment that has not been friendly to candidates
78 who have been pro-labor and pro-IAFF; and

79 WHEREAS, the IAFF and our labor allies have
80 witnessed an unprecedented amount of corporate
81 money spent at all levels of elective office and on
82 ballot initiative campaigns since the U.S. Supreme
83 Court's ruling in the Citizens United case in 2010,
84 that has allowed corporations to spend unlimited
85 amounts of money in elections, much of which is not
86 reportable to election authorities, which makes it
87 hard for the public to determine who is funding
88 campaigns; and

89 WHEREAS, these same anti-union corporate
90 interests have been spending hundreds of millions of
91 dollars to promote model anti-labor, anti-fire fighter
92 legislation at the state and local level through
93 organizations like the American Legislative
94 Exchange Council, that has as one of its goal to
95 destroy unions by attacking our members pensions,

96 health care, collective bargaining rights, dues
97 deduction and our involvement in campaigns; and

98 WHEREAS, these same anti-union corporate
99 interests continue spending millions in pushing anti-
100 union lawsuits creating bad decisions designed to
101 undermine the core foundation of the union
102 movement; cases like *Friedrichs v. the California*
103 *Teachers Association* and *Janus v. American*
104 *Federation of State, County, and Municipal*
105 *Employees*; and

106 WHEREAS, in Canada, funding restrictions at the
107 federal, provincial and municipal levels have led the
108 IAFF to find alternative methods to build support on
109 issues and subsequent political support, by
110 advertising outside of restricted campaign periods—
111 utilizing third party campaigns and working with
112 other labor groups building progressive alliances, as
113 well as supporting Local and Provincial affiliates in
114 constructing issue based networks and campaigns;
115 and

116 WHEREAS, the IAFF has built a comprehensive
117 internal political campaign operation to communicate
118 with its members via mail, internet, social media and
119 through Independent Expenditure efforts to support
120 those candidates for office who have supported our
121 legislative agenda; and

122 WHEREAS, the IAFF continues to increase its
123 political clout by encouraging its members to
124 voluntarily contribute to FIREPAC when registering
125 for various IAFF conferences so that FIREPAC can
126 maximize its support of pro-fire fighter candidates;
127 and

128 WHEREAS, the IAFF funds the Political Training

129 Academy, operating in both the U.S. and Canada,
130 which has trained over 1000 IAFF members or
131 family members—providing campaign skills to those
132 who are candidates for public office or are active in
133 their local's political program, recognizing the
134 importance of having IAFF members and their
135 families serve as public servants or political activists;
136 and

137 WHEREAS, more IAFF members are running for
138 political office at the state, provincial and local levels
139 of government, with a total of over 200 currently
140 serving in office, and it is imperative that FIREPAC
141 support these candidates so that the voices of IAFF
142 members can be heard; therefore be it

143 RESOLVED, That the IAFF per capita allocation
144 for the FIREPAC Education account be increased by
145 \$0.50 effective September 1, 2018.

Submitted by: IAFF Executive Board

Cost Estimate: 50 cents on September 1, 2018

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

CONVENTION ACTION: Adopted as Amended