



# Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada



Sister and Brothers,

As you know by now, the PFFN Executive Board has voted to endorse Steve Sisolak for the Governor's race in the general election. Since the endorsement I have received questions on Steve's position on various issues and I would like to give you some insight so that you are better prepared to answer questions that you may receive as well.

Steve interviewed very well during the PFFN endorsement process and answered all of our questions with a very strong labor position to include those things that matter most to firefighters. His opponent refused to meet with firefighters during the process and requested special consideration prior to the interview which no other candidate requested or received. Steve opposes creation of a hybrid system for PERS. He supports NRS 288 and would even like to see the process expedited if issues need to go through the arbitration process. He supports our presumptive language on heart, lung and cancer and believes expanding that to cover our sisters in the fire service for female related cancers is a matter of fairness and equality. He would also be open to reviewing presumptive coverage for PTSD for public safety and understands fully our reasons we would pursue such legislation.

It is important to note that the candidate running alongside of Adam Laxalt for the Lt. Governor position is Michael Roberson. In 2015 Roberson was the Senate Majority leader and as such, the person who was the most influential in attacking our PERS and collective bargaining rights. Roberson also refused to meet with firefighters throughout the 2017 legislative session to discuss ways in which we could minimize the problems created for firefighters in 2015.

I am including his positions on other issues that matter to all Nevadans and their families. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with his positions so that we can fully support the endorsement of the Professional Firefighters of Nevada.

## **Bio and personal story:**

- Steve was born into a working-class, blue-collar family and has called Nevada home for over 40 years, graduating from UNLV graduate school.
- This is where he raised his two daughters as a single dad and where he built a successful business.



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- Steve served on the Nevada Board of Regents for ten years before his 2008 election to the Clark County Commission, where he serves as Chairman.
- Steve has always worked to be a problem solver who brings people together to find solutions. As governor, he'll work to improve our struggling education system, bring good jobs to communities across our state, defend access to healthcare and stand up for our families.
- Steve is running for governor because he wants to help build a state where every family has the opportunity to succeed.

## **Protecting labor and public employees:**

- Steve is a lifelong supporter of organized labor. He believes it is the right for employees, public and private, to collectively bargain. Steve has received endorsements from the state's major labor unions.
- Steve believes that definitive benefit plans like the Public Employees' Retirement System of Nevada (PERS) need to be protected. Our hardworking men and women deserve a secure retirement and the rug cannot be pulled out from underneath them.
- Adam Laxalt has consistently sided with corporate interests above the well-being of Nevada's workers – even going as far as to file suit in 2016 to prevent 31,000 Nevadans from receiving the overtime pay they deserve.

## **Gun safety:**

- Steve is a strong supporter of the Second Amendment. He believes that responsible gun owners, hunters, and gamesmen have the right to own firearms.
- He believes that law enforcement should have every tool at their disposal to keep our streets safe.
- Steve supports the voter-approved background check law and, as governor, will work to enforce background check laws that reflect the will of Nevada voters.
- He believes that weapons of war that pose a huge danger to law enforcement and our families — such as bump stocks, high-capacity magazines, and silencers — have no place on our streets. He opposes the sale of these, but current owners would be grandfathered in.



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## Education:

- Improving Nevada's struggling education system is Steve's top priority and, as governor, he won't take a salary until our schools are turned around.
- He will work to increase funding, give our educators a much-needed raise, and reduce class sizes. He'll fight against any efforts to divert public funding to private schools.
- Steve will increase professional training opportunities, so Nevadans can begin to learn the skills they need for good paying jobs as early as high school.
  - Laxalt wants to repeal the Commerce Tax, cutting millions in public school funding.
  - Laxalt wants to divert public funds away from our schools and redirect it to private schools - a direct goal of one of his biggest backers, the Kochs.

## Economy

- Steve is a consensus builder who, as Clark County Commission Chair, brought stakeholders together to bring job-creating projects to Clark County.
- As governor, Steve will diversify our economy and attract new and growing businesses - like renewable energy, biotech, and advanced manufacturing.
- Steve supports Organized Labor and will stand with our hardworking union men and women.
  - Laxalt fought to make it harder for unions to organize and will grandstand for Nevada's "Right to Work" law.
  - Laxalt sued to keep workers from receiving the overtime pay they deserve.

## Health care:

- Steve knows that health care is only effective when it is affordable and accessible.
- As governor, he'll protect Nevada families' access to health care from attacks by the Trump administration and its allies.
- Steve will protect Nevada's Medicaid expansion and work to ensure every community has access to quality care and coverage.



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- Steve will defend women's health care and reproductive rights. He'll protect funding for the health clinics that offer the critical services women rely on.
  - Laxalt fought against the ACA, even calling it one of the 'most flawed piece of major legislation American has ever endured.'
  - Laxalt has stayed silent while Trump and the GOP work to sabotage the ACA and even roll back protections for those with pre-existing conditions.
  - He opposed Sandoval's move to expand Medicaid and hasn't committed to maintaining funding.
  - Laxalt opposes a woman's right to choose. Laxalt has used his taxpayer-funded office to sign on to numerous anti-choice amicus briefs, often without the knowledge of Governor Sandoval.

I hope as union leaders you find this information helpful and informative and join your PFFN board as we move forward in the process.

Fraternally,

Angelo Aragon  
President  
Professional Firefighters of Nevada