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Newsroom: Yelnosky on Firefighters Decision

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NEWSROOM

Yelnosky on Firefighters Decision

Dean Michael Yelnosky on the Rhode Island Supreme Court's ruling that North Kingstown can make its firefighters work 24-hour shifts despite union opposition.

From the PROVIDENCE JOURNAL: "[Ruling for North Kingstown keeps firefighters on 24-hour shift](#)" by Patrick Anderson

- *Dean Yelnosky delves deeper into the decision in the January 15, 2015, edition of the [North East](#)*



[Independent of North Kingstown, RI.](#)

PROVIDENCE, R.I., January 09, 2015 — The state Supreme Court on Friday ruled North Kingstown can make its firefighters work 24-hour shifts despite union opposition. [...]

Michael Yelnosky, dean of Roger Williams Law School and a labor law expert, said Friday's court decision should strengthen the legal position of other Rhode Island communities considering structural ways to cut staffing costs.

"The court has decided that this particular change in the way the work force is deployed is a decision that management can make without consulting the union," **Yelnosky said**. "It could have implications for bargaining in the public sector generally. The only caveat is the court said there were other reasons that supported the decision — namely the union failure to ask for interest arbitration on the issue."

Read the court's full decision [here](#).

For full story, click [here](#).