



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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October 16, 2020

Greetings from your Executive Director; lots to cover this week---

With only a few weeks until the election, as leaders in our communities, we continue to provide **consistent messages and clarity** about how we work to solve problems and help maintain public safety. The environment is challenging, but at the end of the day, it may be helpful to continue to find opportunities to remind our local communities:

- Law enforcement defends all rights.
- Law enforcement is locally controlled: Sheriffs are elected, Chiefs are appointed by elected Mayors and City Councils.
- Law enforcement as a profession does not endorse candidates or make policy decisions based on political ideology. Those in law enforcement have varied political opinions, just like everyone else. Some individuals and unions have chosen to make endorsements; this does not imply support of an entire profession.
- Law enforcement defends all rights, including all tenets of the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Washington. People have a right to exercise free speech. Threatening and committing acts of violence is not protest and should be condemned by all. Period.
- We are committed to thoughtful improvements in law enforcement policies as part of our society's work to ensure fair and just treatment for all, and we encourage our communities to come together and reject division.

As we head toward the **election**, here are a few items to further assist you as you communicate and plan:

- Washington is an all-mail-in ballot state, but same-day voter registration is an option. There may be lines at the same-day registration locations, as well as ballot drop-off locations. Here [attached](#) is a link to the ballot drop-offs and auditors offices where registration may be conducted. Some of the larger counties may have voting center locations in addition to their offices. The Secretary of State encourages your agencies to be aware of the possibility of lines, and to be in contact with your county auditor to ensure there is seamless access for those wishing to register.
- Any contacts or calls to law enforcement asking for response to incidents at ballot boxes or registration areas may be used to suggest that law enforcement may be trying to suppress or intimidate voters.

- Law enforcement has no direct responsibility or expectation to monitor any registration area or ballot box. Have a plan on how to respond to calls of lack of social distancing or people being in the areas who should not be.
- The Secretary of State's office has a contact for any questions about laws, expectations, or any other issues, at:

Lori Augino
 Director of Elections
lori.augino@sos.wa.gov
 360-725-5771 desk

Mark Neary
 Assistant Secretary of State
mark.neary@sos.wa.gov
 360-902-4186 desk

- Elections and ballot locations are directed by each state, and locally accountable. There is no central control point that would be a focal point for bad actors to negatively impact the democratic process.
- Law enforcement should look out for any attempts to interfere with citizens' constitutional right to vote or the election process in general, whether those attempts be in person or online, and are encouraged to investigate that interference so as to protect those rights. A list of RCW's related to voting is here (<https://app.leg.wa.gov/Rcw/default.aspx?cite=29A.84>). The FBI is the lead federal agency for investigating violations of Federal election laws and we encourage you to contact your local FBI office for partnership in this area.
- The Fusion Center will be the main access point for intel and other information if there are threats or attempts to affect the process. Ensure that your agency has access to Fusion Center information, either through your EOC or agency contact.
- Good information from the IACP on national preparations can be found [here](#).

Bottom line - Ensure no one perceives or can suggest that law enforcement is encouraging or allowing voter suppression or intimidation.

The 2020 WASPC Fall Conference will be Nov 17-19. The conference will be virtual, and will include:

- A General Business Meeting as required by our bylaws, with emailed committee reports and short briefings.

- A WASPC executive board meeting
- A legislative update from James McMahan, with a discussion of upcoming legislative initiatives.
- A panel with CJTC Commissioners and the Director, to discuss the ongoing implementation of Independent Investigative Team (IIT) rules and upcoming plans for training and other issues related to the commission and BLEA.
- A 4-hour segment featuring Dr. Javidi on professional and personal resiliency and wellness during this challenging time. (4 hrs. of eligible CJTC continuing training)
- A 2-hour segment with Pima, AZ County Sheriff Mark Napier on “The Realities of the Border”. This was originally planned for the May conference and we appreciate the Sheriff being able to present it virtually. (2 hours of eligible CJTC continuing training)

We will get you the exact times and web links early next week to register and get the meetings/training on your calendar. We do not intend to require any payment or cost, beyond your WASPC membership, for this virtual conference. As always, we appreciate your flexibility. It is difficult to engage and communicate via only virtual platforms, but we will do the best we can. We hope you can join us for this opportunity.

Here is a [message](#) from Mark Solomon of the Seattle Police Department, the new President of the Washington State Crime Prevention Association.

Finally, below is a reminder of the annual Racial Profiling Survey--

ONLY ONE RESPONDENT PER AGENCY PLEASE!

It is time to complete the legislatively mandated Racial Profiling Survey. Please click on the link [here](#) to complete the survey. Your response will be greatly appreciated **no later than Thursday, November 10, 2020**. We are asking that agencies not rely on previous responses and instead complete the survey based on current progress. Only one respondent per agency please.

The survey and why it is conducted:

In November 2000, a resolution regarding biased-based policing and perceptions of biased-based policing (commonly referred to as racial profiling) was adopted by WASPC. Racial profiling was later addressed by the 57th Legislature during the 2002 Regular Session by enacting Engrossed Senate Bill (ESB) 5852 which became effective on June 13, 2002. The Act required local law enforcement agencies to comply with the recommendations of WASPC regarding racial profiling as set forth in Section 2, Subsection (1) (a) through (f).

Section 3 of ESB 5852 requires WASPC to report to the legislature prior to December 31st each year on the progress and accomplishments of each local law enforcement agency within Washington State in meeting the requirements and goals set forth in Section 2 of the Act.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Deb using the information below.

Deb Gregory

Executive Assistant

Email: dgregory@waspc.org

360-486-2382

Thank you, stay safe and have a good weekend!

Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director

Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs