



Washington Association of  
**SHERIFFS &  
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**WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS  
SUPPORT FOR GOVERNOR-ELECT FERGUSON COMMITMENT TO \$100 MILLION GRANT PROGRAM**

(Lacey, WA) --- The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) today praised Washington Governor-Elect Bob Ferguson for his commitment to a \$100 million grant program to help cities and counties hire more law enforcement officers.

Washington has ranked 51<sup>st</sup> in the nation for officers per capita for 14 consecutive years, and we're only falling further behind, according to the FBI's Crime in the United States report. Five years ago, Washington was a mere 562 officers short of tying for 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Today, Washington must hire 1,370 additional officers to share last place.

Washington needs additional law enforcement officers to help victims of crimes and ensure public safety. Too few officers has direct impacts on justice for victims, preventing crime, limits de-escalation, increases the likelihood of the use of force, inhibits capacity to investigate and solve crimes, and prevents community policing efforts.

"Governor-Elect Ferguson's continued commitment is especially notable in light of the state's predicted budget shortfalls" said Stevem D. Strachan, executive director. "Furthermore, we appreciate Governor-Elect Ferguson's commitment to protecting public safety from anticipated budget cuts. Public safety is a fundamental responsibility of government. Communities cannot thrive without safety."

WASPC appreciates that Governor-Elect Ferguson is proving to be a leader to address law enforcement recruitment and retention needs in Washington.

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