



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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President
Sheriff Rick Scott
Grays Harbor County

FOR RELEASE
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President-Elect
Chief Steve Crown
City of Wenatchee

STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO:

Vice President
Sheriff Tom Jones
Grant County

Steven D. Strachan
Executive Director

Past President
Chief Craig Meidl
City of Spokane

WASPC STATEMENT ON POLICE REFORM LAWS

Treasurer
Chief Brett Vance
City of Montesano

Law enforcement wants to help people in crisis. We welcome additional resources and support from our community partners. The model policies, due from the Attorney General in July 2022, should have preceded the implementation of these laws, not the other way around.

Executive Board

Chief John Batiste
Washington State Patrol

Law enforcement departmental practices and policies are established with guidance from legal advisors, interpreting the laws enacted by the legislature. Our discussions with legislators as well as statements made by members of the legislature have demonstrated that they acknowledge revisions to the new reform laws are necessary. We adamantly agree that fixes are necessary.

Chief Cherie Harris
City of Kirkland

Sheriff Mitzi Johanknecht
King County

Chief Darrell Lowe
City of Redmond

Additionally, we submitted a [list of questions](#) to Rep. Jesse Johnson (D-Federal Way) for clarification from an Attorney General's Opinion. We believe the AG opinion can provide important clarity, until needed legislative fixes for critical issues related to detention and use of force can be reached. We were advised the questions will be submitted to the Attorney General but have not received confirmation that they have, in fact, been officially sent or received.

Sheriff Kevin Morris
Douglas County

Chief Rafael Padilla
City of Kent

Sheriff James Raymond
Franklin County

In the 2021 Legislative session, WASPC supported clarifying amendments which were offered to help avoid the confusion of implementation of the laws related to police tactics and use of force we are seeing now. They were explicitly rejected by the legislature.

Don Voiret, SAC
FBI—Seattle

Chief Sam White
Lower Elwha Klallam
Police Department

Steven D. Strachan
Executive Director

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Below are two examples of WASPC supported amendments and videos of their rejection.

Proposed amendment in the Senate Law & Justice Committee

Amendment text:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/committeeschedules/Home/Document/232530#toolbar=0&navpanes=0>

Video:

<https://www.tvw.org/watch/?clientID=9375922947&eventID=2021031276&startStreamAt=5065&autoStartStream=true>

Proposed amendment on the Senate floor

Amendment text: <http://lawfilesexternal.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Amendments/Senate/1310-S2.E%20AMS%20HOLY%20S2728.1.pdf>

Video:

<https://www.tvw.org/watch/?clientID=9375922947&eventID=2021041128&startStreamAt=7215&autoStartStream=true>

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WASPC was founded in 1963 and consists of executive and top management personnel from law enforcement agencies statewide. It includes the 39 elected county sheriffs, and 240 police chiefs, as well as the Washington State Patrol, the Washington Department of Corrections, and representatives of several federal agencies. WASPC is the only association of its kind in the nation combining representatives from local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement into a single body, working toward a common goal. WASPC's function is to provide specific materials and services to all law enforcement agencies in the state, members, and non-members alike.