



County Sheriffs of Colorado

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County Sheriffs of Colorado Position Paper The Importance and Value of an Elected Sheriff

One of the responsibilities of government whether it is Federal, or State, or local government is to provide for the safety of its citizens. The Office of Sheriff was created in the Colorado Constitution, and from the very foundation of this state Sheriffs have been elected by the citizens of the counties in which they serve.

The people elect their Sheriffs to fulfill the obligations of the office to which they are elected including upholding the United States Constitution, and the Constitution of the State of Colorado. The election process as designed allows for the greatest of transparency to the voters, and allows the voters to have a direct say in who is going to represent them in the office of Sheriff. Not a committee, or a board, but the accountability for the office is held directly to the people that the sheriff represents. This accountability is why the Sheriff is the primary law enforcement officer in the County. Additionally, the Sheriff is elected from the local communities in which they live giving them unique and personal insights into the public safety needs of their communities.

The Sheriff has been placed in a unique position in State Constitutions, to help protect the citizens against a government that might try to exercise too much control over the people. Today, we see local officials trying to erode the freedoms that were given us by the framers of the Constitution. The Office of Sheriff is under attack from various quarters around this nation, from people who want to see the Office of Sheriff only accountable to a board or a committee or eliminated. This cannot be allowed to happen. The Office of Sheriff is an integral part of a system of the checks and balances that help ensure that a very few people are not in control of the majority.

The County Sheriffs of Colorado believe that it is critically important that citizens directly maintain control of who represents them in the office of Sheriff. A publicly elected Sheriff will always be held accountable by the people to the values of the counties in which they are sworn to serve and protect.