2020
VOTER GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

With 2020 upon us, our country has a series of important upcoming elections that will decide the direction of our country. Some may think that the "biggest" elections- especially federal- mean the most for the country. That is true to an extent, but some local elections and ballot measures are just as important as the presidential election. Our top leadership here at the American Police Officers Alliance came together to create this voter guide to help you make informed decisions on the issues that really matter as you cast your vote in local, state, and federal elections.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

1. Oversight Boards

Police oversight boards, also known as civilian oversight boards, have been implemented to improve community trust in police. But law enforcement officers and union officials are appropriately skeptical of untrained, under-resourced oversight boards.

Police oversight boards affect our nation's law enforcement, especially when run by people with an anti-police agenda. Police oversight boards have very few requirements or standards on who may serve on them. There are no checks and balances in place to ensure board members are unbiased against officers. This opens the door for extremists and activists to infiltrate these boards and manipulate law enforcement activity. Some jurisdiction allows mayors and other officials to appoint police oversight board members, destroying the independence needed to arbitrate discipline in an impartial manner.

In addition to creating unfair biases against law enforcement officers, police oversight boards also increase the amount of unnecessary bureaucracy officers must contend with while simply walking the beat. Measures intended to seemingly protect both officers and the public oftentimes lead to a dearth of paperwork and reporting that removes officers from the street and prevents them from doing their job. This kind of bureaucracy costs taxpayers millions of dollars each year; money better spent addressing pressing police issues like hiring shortages.

2. Immigration and Sanctuary Cities

Sanctuary Cities and illegal immigration are important issues facing our nation's law enforcement. Police officers in some American cities led by leftist mayors and activist city councils have **been ordered not to cooperate with ICE**. By ignoring federal law and granting illegal immigrants sanctuary in their cities, these radicals allow dangerous illegal immigrants free reign to exploit the American Democratic system.

Sanctuary cities place law enforcement officers directly in harm's way and hamstring them in their attempts to enforce the rule of law. **Local activists provide illegal immigrants with greater freedom and more rights than they provide police officers**.

We need to stand with our nation's law enforcement when it comes to immigration. Not only do we need strong borders, we need to stop city councils from preventing law enforcement from working with ICE. Use your vote to stand with our law enforcement and help stop sanctuary cities.

3. Gun Laws and Red Flag Legislation

When gun control activists attack our Second Amendment rights, it leaves police officers, and the American public at risk. **The legislative attempts to ban AR-type "assault rifles"**, amount to nothing less than an illegal gun seizure and confiscation. The enforcement of such laws puts police officers and sheriffs in the dangerous position of being forced to take guns out of the hands of law-abiding citizens.

When illegal weapons bans don't work, radical democrats attempt to pass "Red Flag laws", laws that would allow judges unilateral power to remove guns from citizen's homes without any due process and with little oversight. An activist judge could use this law to force law enforcement to take guns based on little to no evidence.

Organizations like the **Virginia Citizens Defense League** are taking a stand for legal and responsible gun ownership.

As voters, we must take a stand against these second amendment infringements. Not only to protect the lives of average american citizens, but the lives of our law enforcement officers as well. Peaceful demonstrations like the one in January 2020 in Virginia prove that responsible gun ownership is an inalienable right of all Americans.

4. Sheriff Elections

Sheriff elections are another way that voters are able to help law enforcement. With today's hyper political culture, we run the risk of sheriffs being removed for political affiliations, not for on the job performance. This is happening in Cincinnati; the current sheriff lost the support of the democratic party for the grave sin of supporting a pro-Trump sheriff and **attending a Trump rally.**

This must stop: we must stop the removal of sheriffs based on political allegiance. The true reasons to remove a sheriff is corruption, failing to uphold laws, and failing to defend constitutional rights. For example, **Sheriff Israel in Broward county Florida was fired by the state** because he not only failed to ignore the warning signs of the parkland shooter, but his officers' lack of response during the actual shooting was a grave and irresponsible error.

Sheriff elections are crucial to the country and to our own safety. We must look to sheriffs who uphold the law. We need to vote out those who do not uphold the law and cave to the full power of the political machine regardless of party affiliation.

5. Mental Health

Mental health is an issue that affects almost every police officer in this country. This is one of the lesser known issues, but a grave one. **Nearly 1 in 4 officers has thoughts of suicide and the rate gos up for officers in small communities**. We need to address this with greater concern. Our officers put their lives on the line for us, the least we can do is increase awareness and funding for police officers mental health.

When we have issues that affect officer mental health we must support or reject it depending on the wording of the bill.

CONCLUSION

These are the top issues that the American Police Officers Alliance will be supporting in the 2020 election year. We hope that this voter guide will help many of you in your decisions when it comes to voting this year.