

## Sheriff Candidate Responses to Selected Questions from Forum Audience 6-19-20

Question	A J Beagle	Myron Greene	Laura Lee
<p>We've seen sheriffs in other counties in Michigan refuse to enforce the Governor's orders vis-à-vis business shut-downs, social distancing and mask/face coverings. Will you enforce the Governor's orders? Which if any of these actions would you not support?</p>	<p>As sheriff, I would be required to enforce the Governors orders. I would consult with the Prosecuting Attorney to decide how we want to proceed. I would want to enforce these orders with education and communication whenever possible I would not be interested in lodging anyone in the county jail for violations of said orders. I believe these orders can be enforced with documentation and forwarding them to the Prosecutor or the State Licensing Board for review. Also, I am a believer in private property rights. If a business post a sign on the door that reads no mask no service; you should consider wearing a mask or take your business elsewhere.</p>	<p>There have been some constitutionality questions regarding some of the provisions in the Governor's Executive Orders and there were amendments to correct some of the issues, but they are still fairly vague. I would not enforce any order that violates individual constitutional rights; specifically the two issues that came up during the Stay Home Stay Safe were the 2nd Amendment (right to bear arms) and the 1st Amendment (e.g. freedom of speech, religion, and right to peaceably assemble). Whether we agree with the manner that others choose to exercise them or not, they are still protected. I would opt for voluntary compliance on other reasonable/legal provisions. Taking any type of enforcement action would be a last resort. It is impossible to enforce every law, every time, that is why officers/deputies are allowed to use discretion. Ultimately, it is up to the prosecutor of a county to decide whether to pursue enforcement action or not.</p>	<p>The Sheriff swears an oath to uphold the Michigan and U.S. Constitution, while also enforcing the existing laws enacted by the legislature. The government has the three branches; executive, legislative and judicial in order to balance the power for the good of the people. During the current COVID-19 pandemic reports of violations were investigated and then forwarded to the prosecutor for review for charges. The Sheriff's Office has an obligation to enforce the existing laws, keep the residents within their jurisdiction safe and protect the rights guaranteed to citizens. My focus would be on keeping that balance at all times.</p>
<p>Do you agree with Dana Nessel's proposed changes regarding revocation of licenses of officers who fail to serve ethically? Please explain your answer.</p>	<p>Yes. I don't have an issue with the 7 proposals that were made by our State Attorney General. Registered nurses and Licensed Practical nurses have been subject to similar oversight from the State for Years. If a nurse is subject to this oversight and works in Health Care where potential for loss of life is apparent; then carrying a weapon on the street to conduct law enforcement activities is the same. I also believe these</p>	<p>I do. However, I would have to see the final result. Currently, there are provisions in the law that can revoke an officer's certification. Law enforcement officers should be held to a high standard of conduct, both on and off duty. When an officer violates their oath, the public's trust, or their duty to protect the citizens, they should be held accountable. Unfortunately though, too often, it casts a dark shadow on all law enforcement and many great officers are grouped with the bad... Just as we are seeing in the George Floyd incident.</p>	<p>The people of each county elect their Sheriff. The Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards is the training standard of law enforcement officers and use of force. I think the authority should be increased to the Sheriff's in partnership with M.C.O.L.E.S. to swiftly address law enforcement officers for improper use of force, while allowing for due process. The Sheriff ultimately answers to the people of their county. I believe that law enforcement partnerships with their</p>

	<p>proposals will help a Chief of Police or Sheriff to ensure their people are performing their jobs in a professional and respectful manner. It also will help eliminate any Good Old Boys Clubs that may have found their way into the work place.</p>		<p>local communities, is potentially a better solution. At this time, I do not believe that increased bureaucracy will provide the best changes in policing.</p>
<p>Are classes offered in the jail?</p>	<p>There are some classes that have been offered in the past. Not sure what classes the inmates have access to now. I'm sure things have changed because of Covid 19 protocol in the jail. I would like to see as many classes that are applicable for Inmate Programs as possible. GED completion has always been available in the past. There are some religious based programs that can be helpful as well. There may be conflict with providing these type of services for local inmates if they aren't offered to out of county or federal inmates too. I'm also in favor of work release and community work programs for inmates that meet the criteria to participate.</p>	<p>There are classes offered in jail that help to prepare offenders for when they are released from jail. I am aware that ETC provides GED testing, financial planning classes, and employment skills. J&amp;A counseling offers counseling services and I believe Tri-Cap assists in finding proper placement and supervision upon release.</p>	<p>The Midland County Jail and the Community Corrections program offers classes, participation and resources including; GED, Jail Ministry, AA, NA, High School completion, employability skills training, community service, and Tri County Community Adjudication Program (TRI-CAP). We need to do everything possible to offer the options for inmates and those within the court system to have the opportunity to improve their life. In the future, an increased focus on mental health programs, coping skills and life skills would be beneficial. For the individual who wants to change, access to the tools needed to do so can make all the difference.</p>