

Deputy Sheriffs' Association of San Diego County
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**Political Action Committee Endorsement Questionnaire
San Diego County Sheriff**

Candidate Name: Dave Myers

Experience & Qualifications

How does your background qualify you to be San Diego County Sheriff?

Highlight any of your accomplishments, or elements of your record, that demonstrate a relationship with law enforcement and/or a commitment to public safety.

I began my career as a Carlsbad police officer, and in 1985, I laterally transferred to the Sheriff's Department. Working in law enforcement for 35 years, I have worked in almost every part of the Sheriff's Department, including serving as Deputy in the following areas: detentions (jails) Deputy, patrol, Special Purpose, homicides, Community Oriented Policing & Problem Solving (COPPS); as a Lieutenant for the Border Crime Suppression Team, and Operation Stonegarden funding and operations.

As Commander, I managed 24 patrol stations and substations throughout San Diego County; oversaw the Special Investigations Division, consisting of homicides, narcotics, terrorism, and gangs; and supervised the Courts Division, responsible for security at all Superior Court facilities. In 2018, after 33 years I retired as a Commander with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

In addition to my work experience, my formal education includes: Management Peace Officers Standard and Training (POST) Certificate; Supervisory Leadership Institute (SLI) course; San Diego County Employees' Retirement Association (SDCERA) management, Management POST Certificate, numerous SDSO and POST management courses, SDCERA management

and finance training at U Penn's Wharton School of Finance, Harvard University School of Business, and Stanford University School of Law.

Furthermore, my community service efforts involve serving as a board member and/or trustee on several local, nonprofit organizations, notably Community Advocates for Just and Moral Governance (MOGO). My most meaningful accomplishment is the formation of the Sheriff's Office Youth Advisory Group to facilitate community youth expressing their concerns and aspirations.

Platform

These responses will be shared with our members.

1. Why do you want to be San Diego County Sheriff?

I want to restore competency, prioritize community, and build trust back in law enforcement.

2. What are your top priorities?

I want to restore competency, prioritize community, and build trust back in law enforcement.

3. What is the single greatest issue facing the Sheriff's Department?

In my opinion, the lack of community trust is the single greatest issue facing the Sheriff's Department.

4. What is the greatest issue facing public safety in San Diego County? How would you solve the issue?

Again, I believe a lack of trust between Sheriff's Department leadership and the public they serve is the greatest issue facing the Department. It is time to build a leadership team that is competent, reflects the entire population of our region, and serves residents with accountability and professionalism.

5. What is the greatest adversity you must overcome in your attempt to be elected as Sheriff in 2022?

My greatest challenge is getting my message to voters as to why change is needed. The public is not aware of how complacent, disengaged and outdated the Sheriff's Department leadership has become, and how that has affected Deputies' ability to do their jobs.

6. What is your position on staffing for the department over the next four years for full service and detentions/courts deputies?

As it pertains to staffing, the Department needs to create synergies among the current staffed operations to eliminate duplicative efforts and working in silos. Currently, we are understaffed in supervisory positions, so I support full staffing, to include maintaining an accurate number of supervisors to staff ratios.

7. Do you envision any staffing changes or restructuring? If so, what are they?

I do envision staffing changes and restructuring within the Department if elected Sheriff.

These changes include:

- a. Elevating medical administrations positions to the level of assistant sheriff
- b. Creating full-time community representative positions
- c. Add responsibilities for independent internal reviews

8. What is your position on increasing diversity in law enforcement? Do you support quotas or preferences?

Our commitment to serving diverse communities can only be strengthened by a diverse workforce. To this effort, I am committed to promoting equality of opportunity throughout the Department. While I am not in favor of quotas or preferences, my approach would start with the recruiting and attracting a more diverse candidate pool. Once hired, an individual will be evaluated and required to meet Department standards for career advancement.

9. As Sheriff, how do you envision your role with regard to salary and benefits for employees?

As a Department, we should not accept mediocre compensation and benefits for our Deputies. I understand the need for fiscal responsibility and budgetary constraints but attracting and retaining the best officers to our ranks is worth the investment. As Sheriff, I would advocate for top, competitive compensation for all Deputies and professional staff.

10. How would you deal with it if you become aware a member of your command staff displays caustic management practices that are toxic to the Department?

Without any further information or clarification, I believe in accountability and the Civil Service Process.

11. What are your thoughts about the two existing deputy sheriff classifications? As Sheriff, would the dual classifications remain, consider one deputy classification, or is there an alternative option?

I served on and represented the DSA membership when the decision was made to move to a dual Deputy Sheriff classification. However, I know that such classification presents significant challenges regarding management, salary and benefits, and morale to both the Department and membership. I would be open to further discussions regarding the current and future viability of the dual classifications.

12. How do you see your role with respect to advocating for deputies publicly?

As I mentioned before, the greatest threat to law enforcement is eroded community trust and support. As Sheriff, my priority is to restore that trust by publicly supporting and praising Deputies when they do their jobs well, but also being transparent and accountable when law enforcement makes a mistake or engages in misconduct.

13. Morale in law enforcement is at an all-time low. How do you plan to address this issue?

I believe a lack of community engagement and vision by Department leadership to establish a coherent, long-term strategy that addresses the changing dynamics of public safety today has contributed to low morale. Deputies are feeling insecure and uncertain about how to do their jobs because of fear of repercussions or reprisal for their actions. They want to know that our Department leaders and the community will have their backs when they go to work. Many members of the community are also feeling uneasy about their relationship with law enforcement, and we need to change the dynamics and narrative of these relationships to "stronger, together" rather than the "us vs them" mentality that is so pervasive today

14. How much have you raised for your campaign to date, and how much do you plan on raising?

Fundraising has not started for our campaign as our formal, public announcement is scheduled for August 26th. We have a budget of \$400,000 for the primary.

15. Please explain your philosophy regarding the importance of the relationship between the DSA and the Sheriff's Department.

As Sheriff, open and honest communication with DSA and SEIU would be a priority for me. Although we may not always agree, the ability to discuss the issues is of great importance.

Endorsements

Provide a list of endorsements, including public safety endorsements.

Dr. Akilah Weber – State Assemblymember

Chris Ward – State Assemblymember

Raul Campillo – San Diego City Councilmember

Sean Elo-Rivera – San Diego City Councilmember

Joe LaCava – San Diego City Councilmember

Monica Montgomery Steppe – San Diego City Councilmember
Steve Padilla – Chula Vista Councilmember
Bill Baber – La Mesa City Councilmember
Jack Shu – La Mesa City Councilmember
Jennifer Mendoza – Lemon Grove Councilmember
Marcus Bush – National City Councilmember
Jose Rodriguez – National City Councilmember
Corinna Contreras – Vista City Councilmember
Sandy Naranjo – San Diego Port Commissioner
Taisha Brown – Chair, California Democratic Party African American Caucus
Brigette Browning – President, UniteHere, Local 30
Kate Bishop – Chula Vista Elementary School District Board Member
Charda Bell-Fontenot – La Mesa/Spring Valley School District Trustee
Rebecca McRae – La Mesa/Spring Valley School District Trustee
Maria Nieto Senour – San Diego Community College District Trustee
Leticia Cazares – Southwestern Community College District Board Member
Mark Gracy – Helix Water District Board Member
Tiffany Boyd-Hodgson – Vallecitos Water District Board Member
Joann Fields – AAPI Community Activist
Oday Yousif – Valley de Oro Planning Commission
Gary Gartner – Ocean Beach Town Council
Estela De Los Rios – former candidate, El Cajon City Council
Lisa Middleton – Palm Springs City Councilmember
(Partial list)

Additional Information

Please include any additional information that you believe might be helpful to the members of the DSA Political Action Committee or Board of Directors.

Over the course of my law enforcement career, I have seen major shifts in law enforcement principles, strategies, and practices, but the one enduring constant for sustainable, safe

communities is trust between our residents and our law enforcement agencies. I am asking for your support to be the next Sheriff of San Diego County because we badly need Department leadership that is competent in performing its basic law enforcement duties, and because we need to rebuild the community trust that has been eroded over the last decade. It is not enough to just say, "We must do better". It is imperative that we actually start to do something about increasing violent crime, the growing mistrust between law enforcement and communities of color, outdated policing tactics and policies, and a lack of transparency and accountability from the Sheriff.

Thank you for your interest in the DSA's endorsement and for your participation in our process.