

Deputy Sheriffs' Association of San Diego County

13881 Danielson Street, Poway, CA 92064 | (858) 486-9009



Political Action Committee Endorsement Questionnaire - San Diego County Sheriff

2022 Contact Information

Candidate Name: Kenneth Newsom

E-mail Address: Lawman244@cox.net

Experience & Qualifications

Education:

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

I have been in Law Enforcement for over 20 years, most of my experience has been in some sort of patrol related field.

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

One of my biggest things in my career in Law Enforcement, has been a "sense" of community. Though San Diego County is a large urban community, I have always tried to portray the "small town cop" feeling in every city/community I have work. I try to get to know the kids...ie let them play in my patrol vehicle. Got to and volunteer for any community event that is being held. Go to the schools, try to get involved in at least watching the events. Talk to people, get a feel of their

concerns or needs for their respective community and try, key word TRY, to pass it along to my Chain of Command.

Platform

These responses will be shared with our members.

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

For too many years, this Department has been run by people who have long since been removed from the Patrol/Detentions aspect of this job. For most of them, they only work Patrol/Detention for a very short period before moving on to an investigative position and/or Command position. At times, it appears their decision, though made with good intentions, are not working or just flat out fail. For at least a short time, someone needs to be in a position to better serve our Rank and File members.

2. What are your top priorities?

My top priority is to boost the moral in the Detentions area of our department. I have heard way to many "horror" stories of our Detention Depts. getting bullshit I.A's, forced to work mandatory OT (False Imprisoned until a volunteer speaks up). I first plan to sit down with ALL the Detention Deputies and get their feelings and comments, NO HOLDS BARRED. From there take those concerns and speak with my Detentions Command and work on a way to fix this.

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

RETENTION, MORAL, Support from Command. Enough said.

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

Public and Political support. For the Public aspect, Deputies need to get more involved in our communities. I am currently formulating a couple of community/Deputy programs. This is a very lengthy explanation of the program and would be happy to explain in person. As for the Political issue, first would be have a sit down with the various politicians that support and who don't support and see what their issues are. Even invite them to "work a day" in the eyes and shoes of a deputy.

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

Getting people to take me seriously. I extremely serious on running for Sheriff. This department needs someone in who is currently working the streets, because I am on the front lines and know firsthand what needs to be fixed.

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

This is a no brainer. I want as many qualified L.E. and Detentions Deputies working for this department. The L.E. side and Detentions side has been working understaffed and short for way to long. This is a MAJOR safety issue.

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

Besides wanting to hire as many Deputies as I can. Any restructuring would have to be on a case by case basis. I would have to observe all units within the department before a decision like that can be made.

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

Diversity, in any aspect is a good thing, but not at the detriment of hire less qualified candidates to meet a quota. However, if there is a hiring candidate that looks good but might be just short of qualifications, we should as a department, work with these particular candidates, and see if we can help them become qualified.

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

I think "We" L.E. and Detention Deputies should be the highest paid in the County if not the State. I think this goes without explanations. However, when negotiating pay and benefits, this is the role of the DSA. However, I would fully support and put my name behind the DSA, if they are doing everything in their power to make us the best.

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?

I have been victim of this on a couple of occasions and when these issues have been brought up, they have seemed to have fallen on deaf ears. If I become

aware of this, I will ensure that an independent investigation of these possible allegations is investigated. If found to be true, the Command Staff responsible for this toxic and caustic behavior, WILL be held accountable and possibly an I.A investigation. Command Staff must follow the P&P just like everyone else.

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 think it is important to have two different classifications. LE and Detentions. The reasoning is, if an L.E. Deputy is held in the jail for an extended period of time, we stand the chance of loosing this deputy to another agency, for them to get field experience. However, the path for a Detentions Deputy to become an L.E. needs to be made easier. A program as if a Detention Deputy is wanting to be or is backgrounds for L.E., have these Deputies do mandatory ride-along during their application process, at least once a month.

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

Advocating for Deputies publicly should be the top priority, not just for the Sheriff, but for any Command Staff or supervisor. If a Deputy is doing something good in the community or has performed in an extemporary manner, we need to be talking to the press and public.

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

The best way to fix moral, is go straight to the source of the low moral. If elected to Sheriff, one of my plans is to visit, at a minimum, once a month, visit different facilities (patrol stations/Detention Facilities) and get it straight from the mouths of my deputies what is going on amongst the ranks. I will also expect my respective Commanders/Assist. Sheriffs/Under Sheriff to be doing the same thing. Nothing compares to face to face meetings with your rank and file to hear of moral issues and other various problems.

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

I currently have not raised any funds for my campaign. Right now I am all grass-roots and speaking to the public and deputies (off-duty of course) about my plans and what they would like to see from their Sheriff.

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

The relationship between the DSA and the Sheriff's Department is extremely important. We are suppose to work for the same common goal, the public good and for the Deputies. However, the Office of Sheriff should not be able to influence any actions the DSA does. Especially when it comes to protection of the rights of the deputies. I have not seen or heard of this happening.

Endorsements

Provide a list of endorsements, including public safety endorsements.

Currently none.

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.

Public Program Ideas:

Community Support/Outreach Teams: drives around various communities talking and getting involved with the community.

Bring back Citizen's Academy.

Be more outspoken about the good our deputies do and make sure they get the recognitions they deserve.

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