



New Hanover RLC Candidate Survey

-- Sheriff --

Budget & Finances:

1. What is your position on the current budget for the Sheriff's Office? (Check one)
 - Too high, I would cut the budget by _____
 - Just right
 - Too low, I would request additional funding in the amount of _____
 - Other, Explain _____

2. For each of the following divisions within the Sheriff's Office, what is your position on their budgets? (Circle one for each)
 - Patrol Division – TOO HIGH || JUST RIGHT || TOO LOW
 - Detective Division – TOO HIGH || JUST RIGHT || TOO LOW
 - Vice/Narcotics Division – TOO HIGH || JUST RIGHT || TOO LOW
 - Judicial Services Division - TOO HIGH || JUST RIGHT || TOO LOW
 - Detention Division – TOO HIGH || JUST RIGHT || TOO LOW
 - Support Services Division – TOO HIGH || JUST RIGHT || TOO LOW
 - Other, Explain _____

3. What are your positions regarding monetary compensation of deputies in the field? (Check all that apply)
 - The overall individual pay is too high
 - The overall individual pay is just about right
 - The overall individual pay is too low
 - Higher performance-based pay incentives should be awarded
 - Mandatory overtime should be compensated by paying time and a half.
 - Optional overtime should be eliminated, in lieu of paying deputies a decent wage for a 40-hour week.
 - Other, Explain _____

4. Please list the top 3 pieces of equipment, programs, or other monetary expenses that you believe to be wasteful and unnecessary.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

End of Section – If you wish to explain your positions for this section of the questionnaire in more detail, please attach additional page(s).

Personal Liberty:

5. North Carolina law grants local law enforcement units the option of conducting safety checkpoints along the roads in their jurisdiction. What is your position on these checkpoints? (Check all that apply)
 - They are a vital tool to get drunk drivers and other criminals off the roads.
 - They are a clear violation of the 4th Amendment, and I will ban their use once I become Sheriff.
 - Stopping vehicles to do a brief sobriety check is appropriate but asking for their drivers license and other personal papers before there is any reasonable suspicion of a crime violates the 4th Amendment. I would revise and limit the scope of any safety checkpoint conducted when I become Sheriff.
 - Conducting these safety checkpoints is very resource intensive, and doesn't yield enough results to be continued. Those resources would be better utilized elsewhere.
 - Other, Explain _____

6. Currently the County bans the use of tobacco and vaping products on any county property, inside and outside. Would you enforce this ban? (Check one)
 - Yes
 - Yes, but only for indoor smoking, and not for vaping or chewing tobacco at all
 - No, but if the County asks them to leave their property then they must leave or be charged with criminal trespassing.
 - No, unless they are littering or being a public nuisance
 - No
 - Other, Explain _____

7. Civil asset forfeiture is the process where law enforcement seizes the assets of suspected criminals. North Carolina state law prohibits state and local government from permanently keeping these assets unless the suspected criminal is actually convicted in a court of criminal law. However, law enforcement agencies within New Hanover County participate in the Equitable Sharing Program with US Department of Justice. As a result, local law enforcement will request that the federal government seize these assets permanently from a suspected criminal, and then the local law enforcement agency receives up to 80% of the asset's value in return. Participation in this program has resulted in many individual's losing substantial amounts of money, and other valuable assets, without ever being convicted of (or sometimes ever being charged with) a crime. What is your position? (Check one)

- Civil asset forfeiture before conviction of a crime violates the liberty of individuals and our rights under the state and federal constitutions. I will end the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office participation in this program.
- I would limit continued participation in the program to those individuals that have actually been charged with a crime.
- I would continue to participate in the program. It removes funding from suspected drug dealers and other serious criminals and provides much needed funding to the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office.
- Other, Explain _____

8. Some law enforcement agencies are beginning to require that employees be vaccinated against COVID-19 or undergo frequent testing for the virus. Would you require this of employees of the Sheriff's Office? (Check one)

- Yes
- Yes, but only if federal, state, or county authorities require it
- No
- Other, Explain _____

9. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 many public health restrictions have been imposed by government authorities. What is your position in regard to the Sheriff's Office enforcing these types of restrictions? (Select 'Yes' or 'No' for each)

- Mask Mandates on government owned property – YES || NO
- Mask Mandates on private property – YES || NO
- Forced closures of certain public businesses – YES || NO
- Forced closures of churches, or other non-profit organizations – YES || NO
- Reduced occupancy limits on public events – YES || NO

- Reduced occupancy limits on private events - YES || NO
- Proof of vaccination to enter government owned property – YES || NO
- Proof of vaccination to enter certain privately owned property – YES || NO
- Other, Explain _____

10. What is your position regarding the role of the Sheriff’s Office in the enforcement of the nation’s immigration laws? (Check all that apply)

- The Sheriff’s Office should assist in anyway possible to enforce immigration law.
- Immigration law should be enforced by federal authorities, but the Sheriff’s Office should cooperate with those federal law enforcement agencies.
- Immigration law should be enforced by federal authorities, and the Sheriff’s Office should not cooperate with those federal law enforcement agencies, but they shouldn’t impede their efforts either.
- Federal immigration laws impede personal liberty, and the Sheriff’s Office should do whatever it can to protect individuals from enforcement of these laws by federal authorities.
- Only those charged with serious crimes should be referred to federal law enforcement for immigration law enforcement.
- Other, Explain _____

11. What do you believe the proper position on enforcing restrictions on gun rights? (Select “Yes” or “No” for each)

- I would enforce Red Flag laws – YES || NO
- I would enforce laws banning certain weapons – YES || NO
- I would enforce laws banning certain ammunition – YES || NO
- I would enforce minimum age requirements for adults – YES || NO
- I would enforce laws restricting access to firearms by felons - YES || NO
- I would enforce a ban on private gun sales - YES || NO
- I would enforce laws banning guns in certain locations - YES || NO
- I would enforce laws banning guns during protests, parades, or certain other activities – YES || NO
- I would enforce laws requiring permits or licenses - YES || NO
- I would enforce court ordered gun confiscations – YES || NO
- Other, Explain _____

12. What are your positions on the enforcement of drug laws? (Check all that apply)

- Drugs are a scourge upon our community, and we must double-down on the war against illegal drugs.
- The war on drugs is a complete disaster. Trillions have been spent, and millions have been sent to prison. Yet illegal drugs are as prevalent as ever.
- I will not enforce any drug laws as it is a violation of personal liberty.
- I will not enforce drug possession laws, as drug addiction should be a public health issue, and not a legal issue.
- I will enforce all drug laws.
- Marijuana is no more harmful than alcohol, and I will not enforce laws against the sale or possession of it, unless it involves minor children.
- Other, Explain _____

End of Section – If you wish to explain your positions for this section of the questionnaire in more detail, please attach additional page(s).

Constitutional Policing & Accountability:

13. What are your positions on the role of the state and federal constitutions on the job of the law enforcement? (Check all that apply)

- Constitutional restrictions on how law enforcement conducts themselves are essential to the fulfillment of the Sheriff's Office mission.
- Constitutional restrictions on how law enforcement conducts themselves gets in the way of the Sheriff's Office mission of arresting criminals and needs to be circumvented whenever possible.
- It is important to abide by the spirit of constitutional restrictions on law enforcement, even if it means that some criminals get away with their crimes.
- While court recognized restrictions on law enforcement must be respected to ensure convictions, law enforcement officers should be able to bend the rules when investigating serious crime.
- Other, Explain _____

14. A 2018 Charlotte Observer investigation uncovered significant corruption among guards in our state prison system. In 2021, a deputy at the New Hanover County Detention Center was charged with having sexual relations with an inmate. Do you believe that corruption and inappropriate conduct is a problem at the Detention Center? (Check one)

- Yes, it is a huge problem
- Yes, it is a moderate problem
- No, it is only a minor problem that is being handled appropriately now
- No, it is not a problem at all
- Other, Explain _____

15. A large number of the inmates at the New Hanover County Detention Center have not yet been convicted of a crime but are awaiting trial. Due to the large backlog in our court system, some inmates may spend 1-3 years of pre-trial incarceration at the Detention Center, simply because they can't afford bail. What measures would you take in response to this trend? (Check all that apply)

- Nothing, these people are criminals and are getting what they deserve.
- Enlarge the facility to accommodate the growing population of pre-trial inmates.
- Hire more personnel so that these inmates can be treated with greater dignity and so that their rights and safety can be protected.
- While decisions on bail and pretrial confinement are ultimately in the hands of judges, I would hire more personnel and expand the resources for supervised release of inmates who can't afford bail.
- Other, Explain _____

16. What are your positions on the use of body cameras? (Check all that apply)

- It is a very useful internal tool to recognize outstanding work, and in identifying those law enforcement officers who have acted inappropriately and need to either be dismissed or ordered to receive more training.
- Body cameras are a waste of financial resources and simply are tools to denigrate good and hardworking law enforcement officers.
- I will order that every law enforcement officer will utilize a body camera at all times, and I will invest in more body camera systems.
- Body camera footage should only be released upon order of a judge.
- Body camera footage is essential in maintaining public accountability and confidence in law enforcement. Therefore, I would order that all body camera footage be released to the public, regardless of whether a judge orders it or not.
- Releasing body camera footage to the public will help to clear law enforcement officers against fabricated accusations of misconduct.
- Other, Explain _____

17. What are your positions on the use of force when law enforcement is attempting to effectuate the arrest of a criminal suspect? (Check all that apply)

- Law enforcement officers have to put their safety first, and therefore should consider all criminal suspects as armed and dangerous. Any failure by the suspect to comply with the orders of the officer warrants escalation, and the use of lethal force.
- Law enforcement officers need to consider all criminal suspects as “innocent until proven guilty.” Therefore, the officer must employ the least intrusive means of arresting the criminal suspect.
- Law enforcement officers need to be trained on how to deescalate encounters with criminal suspects.
- If law enforcement officers observe that a criminal suspect is reaching for a nearby object, they should assume that they are reaching for a firearm, and the officer is justified in the use of lethal force.
- Even if a criminal suspect does possess a firearm, the 2nd Amendment grants that person a right to be armed. Unless, the criminal suspect attempts to aim or fire at a law enforcement officer, the use of lethal force is not warranted.
- Even if the suspect is only suspected of a non-violent and minor offense, they are still a threat to the community. Any and all necessary force must be utilized if the criminal suspect attempts to flee.
- Other, Explain _____

18. While the vast majority of law enforcement officers conduct themselves with honor and integrity, there are those who abuse their authority. What is your opinion of the accusations that there is a “blue wall of silence” or “blue code” that encourages law enforcement officers to stay silent, and not report on a colleague’s errors, misconduct, or crimes? (Check one)

- This is a huge problem. Law enforcement officers need to recognize that officers who intentionally violate their oaths are not worthy of such protection by their colleagues. I would set up training programs and create other incentives for officers to report inappropriate conduct by other officers, and reward officers who do act appropriately.
- This is a minor problem, but one that is currently being handled well within the Sheriff’s Office.
- There is no problem. This is creation of the leftist media. Law enforcement officers have a terribly tough job. The public should just butt out, and we will take care of our own problems within the Sheriff’s Office.
- Other, Explain _____

End of Section – If you wish to explain your positions for this section of the questionnaire in more detail, please attach additional page(s).

Race & Diversity

19. With the stated goal of creating diversity, some people have proposed that law enforcement agencies give preferential treatment to applicants who belong to “historically marginalized groups”, based on race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religion. Others have proposed that we also offer financial incentives to these qualified applicants or create other programs that will encourage members of these “marginalized groups” to apply. Do you agree with these proposals? (Check one)

- Yes
- Yes, but we must hire the most qualified candidates. However, offering financial incentives and creating special programs to increase the number of minority candidates who apply is appropriate.
- No, we must treat everyone equally.
- Other, Explain _____

20. There has been much public discussion on the use of racial profiling by law enforcement agencies across the country. Critics point to statistics that show that black citizens are much more likely to be stopped and interrogated by law enforcement than their white counterparts. What is your opinion of the use of racial profiling? (Check one)

- Racial profiling is a good thing. Sadly, black people tend to be more economically destitute and prone to criminal activity. This is not the fault of law enforcement but is just the reality. It only makes sense to stop and interrogate these people more often.
- Racial profiling is just a fabrication of the leftist media.
- Racial profiling is a minor problem but is currently being handled well by the Sheriff’s Office.
- Racial profiling is a major problem, and I would take steps as Sheriff to eliminate it within my Office.
- Other, Explain _____

End of Section – If you wish to explain your positions for this section of the questionnaire in more detail, please attach additional page(s).

21. Please list your top 3 priorities that you will work on, if elected. Attach additional page(s) if necessary.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

END OF SURVEY