

## NATIONAL SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION 2024 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

### **MENTAL HEALTH IN JAILS:**

***1. With approximately 60% of jail populations suffering from mental health issues and with jails continuing to be de facto mental health facilities in America, what initiatives would your administration support to ensure better mental health care in jails to prevent worsening conditions and reduce incidents?***

President Trump supports providing correctional facilities all the resources they need to reform and rehabilitate Americans with mental health issues. He believes that we must do a better job dealing with mental health in this country, which is why he supports bringing back mental institutions to house and rehabilitate those who are severely mentally ill with the goal of reintegrating them back into society.

### **YOUTH CRIME:**

***2. How would you address the prosecutorial challenges in handling youth crime while balancing the needs of law enforcement, community resources, and long-term societal impact?***

President Trump will end the leftist takeover of school discipline and juvenile justice. He will order the Education and Justice Departments to overhaul federal standards on disciplining minors. President Trump will allow law enforcement to do their jobs.

### **FENTANYL & OPIOID CRISIS:**

***3. The most recent Drug Threat Assessment issued by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) clearly states the vast majority of these illicit drugs are coming by way of Mexico, where they are being manufactured from precursors provided by China and then smuggled into our country by Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) like the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels. What strategies would your administration adopt to stem the tide of these drugs?***

When President Trump returns to office, he will direct U.S. federal law enforcement to take down the gangs and organized street crime that distribute these deadly narcotics on a local level. He will permanently designate fentanyl as a federally controlled substance. Further, he will tell China that if they do not clamp down on the export of fentanyl's chemical precursors, they will pay a steep price. President Trump will ask Congress to ensure drug smugglers and traffickers can receive the Death Penalty.

***4. In the United States, over the last three years, we have witnessed an annual average of 107,000 people die from drug overdoses, with a large majority of those deaths involving fentanyl. How would your administration coordinate with local, state, and federal law***

***enforcement to disrupt the trafficking networks responsible for smuggling fentanyl and counterfeit drugs across the southern and northern borders and our nation's coastal regions?***

President Trump has vowed to form an unprecedented partnership with law enforcement and neighboring governments in our region to defeat these cartels. President Trump is prepared to take every action, including exposing every bribe, payoff, and corruption that is allowing the cartels to continue their brutal reign. To eradicate the drug addiction crisis in America, President Trump will forge new public-private partnerships for companies willing to provide job opportunities and skills training for former addicts and will expand federal support for faith-based counseling, treatment, and recovery programs.

**BORDER SECURITY:**

***According to Customs and Border Protection (CBP), there have been more than 10.5 million illegal entry encounters nationwide, with more than 8.5 million of those encounters at the southwest border since the beginning of FY2021. In addition, an estimated 2 million "got-a-ways" have evaded CBP and are now present in the United States.***

***5. With the open borders leading to increased serious crimes such as sexual assaults, aggravated assaults, and homicides by individuals in this country illegally, what would your administration do to secure the borders and reduce crime rates and victimization by the individuals in our country illegally?***

President Trump secured our border by building over 400 miles of the world's most robust and advanced border wall and ordering nearly 5,000 troops to the southern border. The Trump Administration honored the U.S. Border Patrol and trained frontline Border Patrol agents to assist USCIS perform credible fear screenings for illegal border crossers. President Trump ended the dangerous policy of "catch-and-release" and the Department of Justice prosecuted a record number of immigration-related cases. Under President Trump, the United States entered a historic partnership with the Mexican government to deploy tens of thousands of Mexican soldiers to secure their side of the border. President Trump has pledged to shut down the border disaster. Upon retaking office, President Trump will immediately restore every successful border policy of the Trump Administration. He will end catch-and-release, restore Remain in Mexico, eliminate asylum fraud, and begin the largest deportation program in American history.

***6. Local law enforcement is overwhelmed with the rise in violent crime (aggravated assault), human trafficking, homicide, violent street gang activity, and illicit drug-related criminality issues. What specific resources would your administration allocate to support sheriffs and officers to assist in addressing these criminal trends in these areas?***

President Trump will sign a record investment in hiring, retention, and training for police officers. The bill will increase vital liability protections for America's law enforcement officers. President Trump will require local law enforcement agencies receiving DOJ grants to return to proven policing measures such as strictly enforcing existing gun laws, cracking down on the open use of illegal drugs, and cooperating with ICE to arrest and deport criminal aliens. President Trump will dramatically increase interior enforcement, and he has committed to deploying federal assets to restore law and order when local law enforcement refuses to act.

***7. Last week, in reference to a congressional request, ICE Deputy Director Patrick Lechlietner released an ICE national docket that shows there are over 600,000 noncitizens with criminal histories on ICE's national docket, which includes those detained by ICE, and those on the agency's non-detained docket roaming freely in communities nationwide. Of those, 435,719 are convicted criminals, and 226,847 have pending criminal charges. This includes criminal foreign nationals convicted of, or charged with, homicide (14,914), sexual assault (20,061), assault (105,146), kidnapping (3,372), and commercialized sexual offenses, including sex trafficking (3,971). An additional 60,268 are on the list for burglary/larceny/robbery; 126,343 for traffic offenses, including driving under the influence (DUIs); and 16,820 for weapons offenses. How will you and your administration address this matter?***

On Day One of his second term in office, President Trump will order the largest deportation operation of illegal aliens in American history. As President Trump has said many times, his first priority will be to remove every single migrant criminal that is threatening our communities.

#### **NATIONAL SECURITY:**

***8. Nearly 400 known or suspected terrorists (KSTs) have been encountered by Border Patrol since FY2021; another 1,400-plus KSTs have been encountered at ports of entry on our southern and northern borders. More than 80% of port-of-entry encounters have been at the northern border. Altogether, illegal immigrants from over 180 countries have crossed our borders, including tens of thousands from countries that could present a national security risk, such as China, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, and Syria. How will your administration address this national security threat and ensure the American people are as safe from terrorist activity on American soil as possible?***

President Trump will reimplement the strong border security policies and immigration actions that kept Americans safe during his first administration. Those successful policies include travel bans, pausing refugee admissions, enhanced vetting of foreign nationals, and unleashing interior immigration enforcement. President Trump will carry out the deportation of all Hamas

supporters, jihadist sympathizers, and other foreign migrants who pose a potential security threat to the United States.

***9. According to the online research journal Science, Mexican Drug Cartels are already the fifth-largest employer in Mexico. They are getting stronger and increasing in power through violent criminal activity, and their influence is being felt throughout the United States, especially the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation Cartels. What will your administration do to address this international and domestic threat to our citizens?***

President Trump has an aggressive plan to dismantle the criminal trafficking networks that are destroying lives and communities on both sides of the border. First, he will restore all the Trump-era border policies and fully secure the border. Next, he will deploy all necessary military assets, including the U.S. Navy, to impose a full naval embargo on the cartels, to ensure they cannot use our region's waters to traffic illicit drugs to the United States. President Trump will order the Department of Defense to make appropriate use of special forces, cyber warfare, and other covert and overt actions to inflict maximum damage on cartel leadership, infrastructure, and operations. He will then designate the major drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations and cut off the cartels' access to the global financial system. Finally, President Trump will get full cooperation of neighboring governments to dismantle the cartels, or else fully expose the bribes and corruption that protect these criminal networks.

#### **RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION IN LAW ENFORCEMENT:**

***10. Law enforcement agencies are struggling with recruitment and retention due to burnout, lack of financial resources (competitive market salaries), and lack of affordable housing, to name a few. What would your administration do to assist law enforcement and their jurisdictions in addressing these shortcomings? In addition, how would your administration ensure better funding to provide better mental health services accessible to officers and help the profession retain officers?***

President Trump has always supported law enforcement and has fought against the radical Defund the Police movement. His administration did more for law enforcement than any other in the history of our great nation. When he returns to office, President Trump will revitalize police departments and deliver record funding to hire and retrain police officers. He will make record investments in hiring retention and training of police officers. He will not allow one penny to be cut from the retirement and pension benefits earned by our nation's law enforcement. Just as he did during his first term, President Trump's administration will work to improve the lives of law enforcement officers by developing a holistic approach to tackling the mental health and wellness needs of officers.

***11. In light of the negative public perception surrounding law enforcement and the negative rhetoric toward law enforcement in general, how would your administration work with federal, state, and local officials to shift the narrative and show support for law enforcement officers nationwide?***

President Trump has always been pro-police and anti-crime. He will give our police back their power, authority, and prestige — including by providing federal indemnification for police officers doing their job. President Trump supports a mandatory death penalty for anyone who murders a police officer.

**DATA USAGE AND ACCESS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT:**

***12. Legislative proposals like H.R. 4639 and the American Data Privacy Protection Act limit law enforcement's access to critical data. How would your administration strike a balance between privacy rights and giving law enforcement the tools needed to prevent and solve crimes?***

President Trump believes that the details of balancing privacy rights and giving law enforcement the tools they need should be determined by the United States Congress and written into law. President Trump looks forward to joining that process — and in so doing, he is committed to inviting the National Sheriffs' Association all law enforcement agencies to have a seat at the table.

***13. With the rise in digital crimes and the need for quick access to data, what specific actions would your administration support to oppose bills that restrict law enforcement's ability to access data for criminal investigations?***

President Trump will ask the United States Congress to address these issues.

**COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPARENCY WITH SHERIFFS:**

***14. Over the past four years, we have had dialogue DHS and DOJ Secretaries, but despite our efforts to establish a relationship and engage in dialogue, the National Sheriffs' Association has not been afforded the opportunity to meet with President Biden. We respectfully ask if you would be willing to commit to a meeting with our leadership within the first 100 days of your administration, with the aim of fostering regular in-person discussions moving forward?***

The Trump Administration will always seek the input, and consider the suggestions, of the National Sheriffs' Association. President Trump commits to meeting with the organization's leadership within his first 100 days in office.