



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

## 2026 PRIORITIES

### **Legislative Proposals to restrict Data Usage and Access for Law Enforcement**

- Legislation restricting lawful use of existing data access will undermine law enforcement ability to prevent, respond to, investigate and solve crimes.
- A privacy framework must include authority for the collection and transfer of even protected data for a broadly worded public-safety purpose, including a sheriff's mission in law enforcement, the county jail, dispatch center, and regional fusion center. The American Data Privacy Rights Act and the American Data Privacy & Protection Act (118th Congress) failed to contain an adequate public-safety purpose.

### **Legislative Proposal to Eliminate Asset Forfeiture**

- The federal equitable-sharing program allows state and local agencies to participate on federal task forces, such as HIDTA, and ONCP recognizes multijurisdictional task forces as the "backbone" of counter-drug efforts. Repealing equitable sharing would be a gift to the drug cartels and a disaster for public safety.
- **Vote no** on S. 263, Fifth Amendment Integrity Restoration (FAIR) Act (119th Congress).

### **Border & Homeland Security**

- Local law enforcement agencies are increasingly overwhelmed by violent crime, gang activity, human trafficking, and drug trafficking.
- Documented cases show increases in serious crimes, including sexual assault, aggravated assaults on law enforcement officers, and homicides committed by undocumented individuals.
- Congress should fund critical DHS grant programs like the Homeland Security Grant Program, Operation Stonegarden, Urban Area Security Initiative.
- Congress should also robustly fund HITDA and keep it under ONDCP. **Vote yes** on S. 767, the HIDTA Enhancement and Authorization Act at a minimum of \$333M annually.

### **Mental Health in Jails**

- Jails have become the largest mental health care provider in the nation with approximately 60% of the jail population suffering from mental health issues. Sheriffs are responsible for providing required healthcare to individuals in custody. Inadequate mental health care can lead to worsening conditions and increased incidents within jails.
- **Vote yes** on H.R. 2586, Reentry Act and H.R. 1510, Due Process Continuity of Care Act to increase access to Medicaid-covered services.

### **Recruitment and Retention in Law Enforcement**

- Financial resources and investment in training and wellness services are essential to hire law enforcement officers, dispatchers, and jailers.
- The cycle of increased stress and burnout among current law enforcement personnel contributes to a mass exodus out of the profession and the low levels of retention.
- Support from federal, state, and local officials, as well as communities, is crucial to back law enforcement officers nationwide and shift the narrative from negativity to positivity

### **Scams**

- **Vote yes** on (1) S. 3355/H.R. 6425, **National Strategy for Combatting Scams Act**, (2) H.R. 6426, **STOP Scams Against Seniors Act**, to authorize recipients of Byrne JAG grants to use funds to fight scams against seniors, and (3) S. 710, **Crypto ATM Fraud Prevention Act**, which would regulate the market of crypto-kiosks, which enable individuals to buy crypto-currency, like Bitcoin. Scammers increasingly use these kiosks to victimize the elderly in various scams.

### **Updating 9-1-1 Communication Systems**

- Our 9-1-1 communication infrastructure is outdated, and lacks cyber security and interoperability between county, police, fire, and dispatch services. These can cause delays in emergency response.
- A 2018 nationwide study showed the need for a \$15B investment to upgrade the outdated 9-1-1 system.
- Congress should pass HR 6505, the Next Generation 9-1-1 Act, to fund nationwide NG9-1-1 deployment.