

Kenosha County Sheriff Questionnaire 2018

The first step in seeking the support of Forward Kenosha is filling out this candidate questionnaire. We will follow up with you to confirm receipt of the questionnaire.

If you'd like to preview the full list of questions before getting started, just print this page. You'll get a full copy of the questions that you'll find on all the pages of this questionnaire.

Thank you for doing your part in giving the power back to the people. We're glad you're part of this movement

Email address *

andy@andyberg.us

Candidates Name *

Andy Berg

How many years have you lived in your state or district? *

11 years in Wisconsin-7 in my district

Are you a current or former elected official? If yes, what office(s)? *

I am currently a Kenosha County Supervisor-District 10

Why are you running for office (27 words or less)? *

To make a positive impact on crime, recidivism, and building a better relationship between the department and the community.

Opioids

What could be done differently to address the opioid crisis in Kenosha County? *

Concurrently, we need to better our relationships with law enforcement within our county and the departments to our south. Along with relationship building, we need to increase our vivitrol program, increase during and after incarceration programs, and i crease our presence in the interstate.

Do you believe drug users have a disease or a character flaw? *

I believe it is a combination of a few things. I dont think I would use the phrase “character flaw” though. Kids are raised vastly different among our communities. Being raised around drugs, both illegal and prescription can have a detrimental effect on our future and how we behave.

Addiction can be both a disease and a behavior. We need to react to the disease and unlearn behaviors.

Comments on any of your responses for this section

Community Relations

The Sheriff's department covers a wide area. What do you feel are the similarities/differences throughout the various communities in the county?

*

Difference is people are more spread out in county and resources are more difficult to reach. The county doesn't have bus transportation like the city. In the city, residents can walk or ride bike to their jobs, medical appointments, court hearings, pantries, shelters, stores, social security office, etc. Residents in the county may let certain things like medical slide because of a lack of transportation. Residents in the county have further to go if they need mental health or addiction services. Which may possibly perpetuate the problem.

How would you improve the relationship between the sheriff's department and the community if elected? *

I have already spoken to folks involved in foster care programs. They have told me that 50-75% of foster children end up arrested and/or incarcerated. That should be a red flag. We need to work more closely with organizations such as the foster care program so we can have a more positive impact.

I have already spoken to a few community leaders in the African American community. We have already said that we need to actually sit down and discuss and find out how we can work together better than we are now.

We do not always have to have our deputies have a strategy of presence. Maybe some kids will speak with a deputy easier if they are not all suited up in a uniform.

In Afghanistan, we were trained to be hard targets. Being a soft target opens us up for an easy attack. But that is in a combat area. America is not a combat area. We don't always have to be hard to accomplish our tasks.

How would you make the department more open to feedback? *

I believe that we need to have more open dialogue with the community. We need to increase our neighborhood watch programs and increase the training given to watch captains.

If we need to have a monthly open discussion at the job center and/or at the Kenosha Community Center, we will.

Will your department have an ongoing dialogue with the African-American community on these issues? *

Yes

No

Have you met with community organizers on ways to confront these issues candidly and directly? *

Yes

No

If you have not met with community organizers, please tell us why.

Comments on any of your responses for this section

Racism

How will you prevent racial profiling? *

There are programs like "Predpol" that brings more accountability to our management and deputies. For every vehicle pulled over, I absolutely want reports on demographics.

Have you or a colleague ever acted or spoken disrespectfully toward a minority group? *

Yes

No

Have you ever posted on social media disrespectfully to/about a minority group? *

Yes

No

Do you think there are racial disparities in how law enforcement uses force? *

Yes

No

Please elaborate on your answer to the above question. *

I have worked with African American men who have expressed to me situations where they should not have been pulled over. Speaking with leaders in my neighborhood, I have heard the differing process of how black men are dealt with differently than how white men are dealt with. Situations like possible domestic violence calls, loud noise nuisance calls, etc.

Do you believe victims of law enforcement violence have rights? *

Yes

No

Please elaborate on the above answer *

Key words are victim and violence. If you are a victim, you have been done wrong. Violence is violence. There is no such thing as positive violence.

Many law enforcement departments suffer from a locker-room culture of racism. Will you have a policy when an officer regularly uses racial slurs, such as race sensitivity training? *

Yes

No

Will you take measures to keep track of what percentage of the citations issued by your department have gone to low income citizens and/or people of color? *

Yes

No

Please elaborate on the above answer *

Determining low income may be a bit difficult. We dont have the right to ask people their income levels. However, we can absolutely gather data on demographics and analyze the results.

Comments on any of your responses for this section

Department Function/Training

Do you feel the current screening process is adequate? *

Yes

No

Please describe how the screening process is or is not adequate. *

I have not been involved in the screening process so therefore I do not know the extent of the process. But that gives us the opportunity to look at the process from a non-biased view.

Do you feel the current training/in-service provided is adequate? *

Yes

No

Do you feel the current ongoing department training is adequate? *

Yes

No

Please describe how the training, inservice or ongoing, is or is not adequate.

*

There is lots of available training that includes downed helicopters, flooded communities, and derailed trains. We have lots of options for narcan training. We have the Crisis Intervention training which should not be a once and done training. We should have to do refreshers and maybe even different levels.

Do you feel the department is adequately trained in de-escalation techniques? *

Yes

No

Please describe what, if anything, you would change in the current training.

*

We can never be adequately trained. There is always someone who missed the training. There is always room for improvement. And with mental health and opioids on the continued rise, we need to continue our training.

Both the Kenosha County Jail and the Detention Center have a history of staffing shortages. Please elaborate on how you would handle the current staffing issues. *

I think a little volunteer shake up can be an option. Does staff want to change posts? Do they want to swap? Would they rather be on a different shift.

I think we need to look closer at our ICE inmates. If we removed them, what would our overtime costs be? We would lose income. That is for certain. But would we have a less stressed workforce? Quite possibly.

Please describe your position on body cameras and if law enforcement should/should not wear them. *

I think it is absolutely an option. There are many sides to this topic. From the LEO position, they may feel like their behaviors are being targeted. From the investigative perspective, it could protect the LEO. From the citizens view, they may feel more at ease if they know all actions are being recorded. It can also be a deterrent from illegal behaviors on behalf of the citizen and/or the LEO.

If you feel body cameras are necessary, how would you ensure compliance, and how would you ensure cameras are in working order for all law enforcement? *

For every interaction with the public, they would need to be turned on. If it is not being turned on during public interaction, discipline would follow. When issues each morning, it would be ensured that the device was fully charged.

What is your position on the use of snowmobiles/bicycles? Please describe whether or not their use would be helpful. *

I am for both. There are areas of the county that vehicles just cannot get through that snowmobiles and bikes can. There are also areas we need to have a presence such as the growing bike paths of Kenosha County.

Comments on any of your responses for this section:

Officer Health/Wellness

Law enforcement is a stressful occupation. How would you ensure all officers have access to regular mental health/wellness assessments? *

After action assessments by a professional. Twice a year assessments if necessary. Coming from the perspective of Veteran, 22 Veterans commit suicide daily. PTSD is terrible to secure to. We need to do everything in our capacity and beyond even, to secure the safety of our deputies and corrscctional staff as best as we can.

An officer observes questionable behavior in a colleague. What is the protocol for a scenario such as this? *

If it is illegal, it needs to be reported. If it is a moral or ethical situation, I want to have faith in my staffs integrity. We will absolutely look at all our policies.

How would you ensure there are measures to handle the above scenario safely? *

Employers used to have employee suggestion boxes. Eveyone should have the availability of being anonymous.

What measures would you take to prevent such behaviors as described above? *

Continued training in diversity and department ethics.

Will you hold officers accountable who abuse their power the first time and not wait until there are several complaints against them? (Leave with pay should not be an option) *

Yes

No

Immigration/ICE

Section 287(g) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to deputize selected state and local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration law. What is your position on Section 287(g)? Would you enact 287(g) in our community? *

We have our own job to do. Let alone another departments. As long as we have overtime, we dont have time to do another departments job.

If elected sheriff, will the Sheriff's Office enforce ICE hold request under any circumstances? *

Yes

No

If elected sheriff, will you share any of the following information with ICE by any means: a. Criminal custody release dates b. Home address or other contact information c. Physical description d. Court dates (Please indicate which in your answer) *

All of these items are public information via CCAP and the DOC Locator whether my department shares it or not.

Comments on any of your responses in this section:

If we were to rid the KSD of ICE inmates, we would lose approx \$1.5 million profit.

Incarceration/Rehabilitation

Should inmates be provided with educational and recreational opportunities? *

Yes

No

Please elaborate on your answer to the above question. *

We need to drastically increase the education options so that they are coming back into our communities on a better leg than how they entered.

Do you believe in rehabilitation?

Yes

No

Please elaborate on your answer to the above question. *

I believe in the concept. I cant say that it is at its full capacity in Wisconsin though. I have seen grown men released back into society not knowing how to read and write. We have failed and its time to fix it.

Is Kenosha doing a good job rehabilitating incarcerated people? *

Yes

No

Please elaborate on your answer to the above question. *

We dont have enough programming and education.

What improvements can be made to lower the rate of recidivism? *

Increased education, job skills, and life skills.

What is your stand on collaborating with community agencies on discharge coordination of inmates returning to the community? *

I think its a great idea and if we are not already doing this, shame on us.

Comments to any of your responses for this section:

Gun Control/Gun Violence

What is your position on common sense gun control? Please state your support by checking yes or no to each of the following:

Ban assault rifles *

Yes

No

Increase the age to buy (not necessarily use) firearms to 21 years. *

Yes

No

Eliminate high capacity magazines to no more than six rounds (Hunters are limited to five shots for a kill). *

Yes

No

Limit gun purchases to one per month. *

Yes

No

Licensing and registering firearms, the same way we license drivers and hunters. *

Yes

No

Background checks and limitations on ammunition *

Yes

No

Limitation of firearm ownership for substance abusers *

Yes

No

National data base for guns *

Yes

No

3-day waiting period for gun ownership *

Yes

No

Closing gun show loopholes

Yes

No

If you responded NO to any of the above, please explain

How do you limit the purchasing of the components to make your own ammunition?

.....

High Speed Law Enforcement Chases

Do you agree with the department's written policy on high speed chases?

Yes

No

If not, how would you change it?

I believe that all policies need to be looked at periodically. Especially after situations occur around that policy. We cannot always be reactive. We need to be proactive also. Situations always dictate the scenario and how it plays out. If the situation occurs at 2 in the morning when there is next to nobody on the road versus 830 in the morning or 5 in the evening where there is a large amount of traffic. We need to keep the safety of our residents uppermost in our minds. With that, sometimes our decisions change based on multiple variables.

Comments on any of your responses for this section:

Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment

Are you familiar with the sheriffs departments' policy on sexual harassment among employees? *

Yes

No

Do you feel the policy noted above is adequate? *

Yes

No

If you answered NO to the above question, how would you change it?

Any situation where unwanted sexual anything occurs, needs to be addressed, to include the likely possibility of losing ones job.

Are you familiar with the sheriffs departments' policy on sexual harassment of detainees? *

Yes

No

Do you feel the policy noted above is adequate? *

Yes

No

If you answered NO to the above question, how would you change the policy?

I am not aware of the Sheriff's policy on sexual harassment. However, there is a Federal policy and it revolves around PREA. "Prison rape elimination act". Any sort of sexual anything (consensual or not) is clearly not allowable and an investigation will occur with possibility of loss of job and charges brought.

Personal Fitness of Law Enforcement

What makes you the best candidate for the job? *

My 19 plus years in the Army. I also have been involved with the budgeting process having been elected twice to the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors. Also is my 11 plus years in a correctional setting. The number 1 and number 2 state statutory duties of the Sheriff are specific to the detention center and jail. That is my relevancy.

What do you think is the most important skill of being a good sheriff? *

Being open minded. My way is not always "THE" way. We need to work more cohesively. The overall decision obviously lays with me, but the build up needs to be all of us and all of us can have input.

What is the biggest need of the sheriff's department now, and what will you do to fulfill that need? *

A change. There needs to be change. We cannot keep doing the same thing.

The gross majority, 99% of the inmates are coming back into our community. Our neighborhoods. They will live next door to you and me. We cant keep warehousing these men and women and expect them to change their behaviors if we dont help by providing different and better tools.

We have an opioid problem and it will continue growing. We need to be a lot more creative in how we address the problem. More law enforcement is always the answer. Why not increased programing and education. Why not extend the service after the inmate is released instead of just kicking them out and saying goodbye. Why not find more tools than we already have currently. They are out there.

Assessing the recent performance of the sheriff's department and if elected, would you keep going in the same direction or change course? *

Oh no. We will not continue the same path. Some things may stay the same. But we need to adapt to the times, adapt to the current situations, adapt to the future. Change is necessary and being in the Army, we are constantly changing to our environment so that we can be relevant in the necessary outcome. To Serve & Protect.

Last Step

Click "Submit" below to send your completed questionnaire to the Endorsement Team of Forward Kenosha.

If you have any questions about the status of your questionnaire, follow up with Forward Kenosha's Endorsement Team by emailing forwardkenosha@gmail.com

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