

Q&A

MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATES

All county sheriff candidates were asked the same questions by the creators of this guide. The answers that follow are in their own words.

Questions asked:

1. What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?
2. What are the three key messages of your campaign?
3. How would you describe the relationship between your community and law enforcement?

We recognize that response lengths vary among candidates. To ensure we fully honor their perspectives, we are sharing each answer in its entirety. You can find their contact information in the “Snapshot” sections.

Note: Names listed in alphabetical order and by party.

Q & A MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATES

John Beeman (R)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
 - I bring the experience of being the sheriff for the last three years. Prior to being elected sheriff I was in command of all the US Marshals Fugitive Task Forces in the State of Indiana. My team and I have for the last three years have been immersed in the planning of the new jail here in Madison County. At the same time, we have increased the pay for the civilian jailers and advocated for a pay raise for the merit officers and improved the morale and workplace environment that has resulted in all available positions being filled. That was not the case at the beginning of my term. We have numerous initiatives to increase public safety.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
 - If the people grant me the privilege of re-electing me as their sheriff, we will have to complete the new jail and complete the transfer of the inmates and initiate the new programming at the jail such as mental health and addiction counseling. We hope this new approach will help curb the high recidivism rate we have in the county. I will continue to seek out new innovative technology and methods and fight to maintain our current staffing of merit deputies to patrol Madison County to keep our record levels of low crime and rapid response to citizens in need.
 - **Q3: How would you describe the relationship between your community and law enforcement?**
 - I would describe the relationship between the county citizens and the sheriff's department as very good. I am responsive to citizens' concerns personally. I receive calls, emails, appointments and interactions out in the community and they are by and large positive. Clearly not everyone is completely satisfied but I always listen to their concerns and issues and provide an answer based upon the law, ordinance or policy of the department. I will still operate as I have my first term, open door, both for the staff and the public. I have a lifetime of service from my time in the military, the Marshals Service and as the Madison County Sheriff.

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Brian Bell (R)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
 - I am the only candidate with 33 years of service at the Madison County Sheriff's Department, serving in every division, including the jail. I earned each merit-based promotion, holding the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Chief Deputy (2006–2019). I have owned a local landscaping business since 1990 and manage multiple residential and commercial properties. I am one of only two county officers to graduate from the FBI National Academy (Class #215). I hold an Associate of Science in Criminal Justice and graduated from the Madison County Leadership Academy.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
 - The three key points of my campaign are proven leadership, being a working Sheriff, and experience. I believe a Sheriff should be active in the community he or she serves and show strong support for the men and women of the department. I will be visible, accessible, and engaged—building relationships that strengthen public safety and better serve the citizens of Madison County. With 33 years of experience, I am prepared to lead on day one.
- **Q3: How would you describe the relationship between your community and law enforcement?**
 - I believe the relationship between the Madison County Sheriff's Department and the community it serves has been greatly diminished over the past three years. As I've said before, I will rebuild those relationships and leverage them fully to better serve the citizens of Madison County. I was heavily involved in the community during my tenure as Chief Deputy, and I will continue that commitment as your next Sheriff—restoring trust, strengthening partnerships, and leading with integrity.

Johathan Culp (R)

- **This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways did not respond.**

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Kimberly Stigall (R)

- This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways and did not respond.

Norman Rayford (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
 - I am an Indiana Law Enforcement Academy graduated and a 27 year veteran with the Anderson Police Department where I currently serve as Asst. Chief over Operations. I attended Calhoun Community College in Athens, AL where I majored in Criminal Justice. I've served as a Patrol Officer, Community Policing Officer, Court Security, Major Crimes Detective, Uniform Sergeant. I have received numerous Department and Community Awards including Madison County Officer of the Year (2017). I bring experience in policy development, Community affairs, Incident Command, Budgets, and staff management.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
 - I am focused on bringing the Madison County Sheriff's Office to the forefront of Community affairs in regards to being more vigilant in all Communities that we in Law Enforcement serve. I am focused on improving jail conditions for staff and inmates. I am also focused on continuing to modernize Policing through the jail and throughout the Department as far as equipment as a whole.
- **Q3: How would you describe the relationship between your community and law enforcement?**
 - I am a devoted man of Faith, I'm a father and grand father to children within the Madison County Community. I have coached wrestling on all levels within Madison County. I'm involved in leadership roles in several non-for profit organizations.

Dennis Watson (D)

- This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways and did not respond.