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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 gave a character count limit for each response from candidates to keep them within similar lengths. However, there is variation. To ensure we fully honor their responses, we are sharing each answer as it was submitted.
You can find candidate contact information in the “Snapshot” sections.
Note: Names listed in alphabetical order and by party.

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Q&A MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATES

John Beeman (R)- incumbent*

- **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.

*__Incumbent:__ This is the person who currently holds an office.

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Q&A MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATES

John Beeman (Continued)

- **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.

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.

Q&A MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATES

Norman Rayford (Continued)

- **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.

LOCAL RACE SNAPSHOT

COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATES

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John Beeman (R) - incumbent*

- **Website:** https://beemanforsheriff.com/
- **Facebook:** John Beeman for Madison County Sheriff
- **Email:** johnbeemanforsheriff@gmail.com

Norman Rayford, Jr (D)

- **Facebook:** Norman Rayford Jr
- **Email:** nrayford297@gmail.com

County Sheriff's Role: The County Sheriff enforces laws in their county, hires county police officers, preserves order in county courts, and manages the county jail and the prisoners within (Indiana Code).

***Incumbent:** This is the person who currently holds an office.