

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION



Florida Sheriffs Association 2023 Legislative Priorities

Solidifying the Elected and Independent Office of the Sheriff

In 2018, Amendment 10 to the Florida Constitution was approved by 63% of Florida voters. Amendment 10 requires every Florida county to elect all constitutional officers, including a sheriff, beginning in 2024, and prohibits counties from transferring the Sheriff's duties to another officer or office. Miami-Dade is currently the only county in Florida without an elected Sheriff, and instead, has an appointed police director and a Mayor who serves as the Sheriff.

Despite the passage of Amendment 10, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners recently voted in favor of a resolution to maintain the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) and transfer nearly all the powers, duties and obligations reserved to the Office of Sheriff to the MDPD. This legislation will preserve the will of the voters by clarifying under Florida law, the powers, duties, and obligations reserved exclusively to the Office of the Sheriff, and which cannot be transferred to another officer or office.

Support HB 1595 by Rep. Yarkosky & SB 1588 by Sen. Burgess

Improving the Florida Retirement System for Special Risk Class Members

This legislation will restore the length of credible service from the current 30 years of service to 25 years of service and the retirement age from the current 60 years to 55 years for Special Risk Class employees under the FRS to the pre-2011 requirements. This will ensure that all members of the Special Risk Class, regardless of their hire date, can enjoy the same normal retirement age.

Support HB 239 by Rep. Busatta Cabrera and SB 224 by Sen. Hooper

Funding for Rapid DNA Systems in County Jails

Currently, DNA testing on arrestees can take weeks or months to be processed. However, the FBI recently gave the FDLE permission to submit “Rapid DNA” from a jail setting. Rapid DNA is a fully automated process that allows law enforcement to perform a simple cheek swab and receive a DNA profile within two hours. This technology will allow law enforcement to swab a qualifying arrestee’s cheek at booking and quickly determine whether the person’s DNA is a match to any unsolved crimes.

This funding request seeks an appropriation from the state budget for an initial pilot program to purchase Rapid DNA machines for use in eleven jails in Florida. Additionally, HB 1105 and SB 1140 would create a Rapid DNA Grant Program within the FDLE to award grants to county jails or sheriffs’ offices to support local law enforcement agencies purchase Rapid DNA machines and testing supplies in the future. These funds will be an important step towards solving unsolved crimes and ensuring that dangerous repeat criminals are not released back out onto our streets.

Support Form 2033 by Rep. Garrison and Form 2102 by Sen. Ingoglia

Support HB 1105 by Rep. Temple and SB 1140 by Sen. Ingoglia

Florida Sheriffs Association Legislative Platform

Law Enforcement

Marsy's Law: Support legislation to clarify Marsy's Law protects victim information when they ask for their information to be protected.

Jails, Corrections & Re-Entry

Early Release: Support Truth in Sentencing laws requiring convicted criminals to serve at least 85% of their sentence.

Mandatory Minimum Sentencing: Oppose the elimination of mandatory minimum sentences.

Expunction of Criminal Records: Oppose unlimited expunction of criminal records.

Administration

Florida Retirement System: Support returning length of service to 25 years and the retirement age to 55 years for Special Risk Class employees.

Florida Retirement System: Support reducing the amount of time a law enforcement officer must remain retired before being rehired from 12 months to 30 days.

Florida Retirement System: Support legislation to assess the financial impact and necessary funding required for an ad hoc cost of living adjustment for future Special Risk Class retirees.

Budget

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training Funding: Support continued funding to train law enforcement officers to safely assess and identify people in mental health crisis and help connect them with community treatment and keep them out of the criminal justice system.

Community Mental Health Funding: Support funding for mental health services that will assist persons after they are released from county jails and have to transition back into the community.



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