

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

As approved by the WASPC membership on November 18, 2015 in Chelan, WA

LAW AND JUSTICE DAY

JANUARY 27, 2016 • 9:00 AM • COLUMBIA ROOM

Improve the State's Mental Health System

Mental health is quickly becoming Washington's greatest public safety challenge. Without an effective state mental health system, law enforcement officers will continue to be forced into violent confrontations with the mentally ill, and local jail beds will continue to be

filled with those who suffer from mental illness. Sheriffs and police chiefs believe that individuals who suffer from mental health challenges deserve an effective state system that provides evaluation and treatment to all who need it.

Increase DNA Testing Capacity

Technological developments continue to pave the way for more efficient and effective crime fighting techniques. This is particularly the case in the field of DNA testing, where justice in Washington is

limited not by technology, but by the WSP Crime Lab's DNA testing capacity, and the Legislature's limitation on the offender samples allowed into the CODIS database.

Address Unintended Consequences of the Public Records Act

The state of Washington's public records law enables and rewards blatant abuse and harassment. Furthermore, the law punishes, rather than encourages, the use of transparent and accountable technologies such as body-worn cameras. The current state of public records has far

exceeded the intent and expectations of 1972. The Public Records Act is in need of an update to reflect the realities of today's technology and privacy expectations, and to remove provisions that reward harassment and abuse.

Ensure Sufficient Funding for Statewide Public Safety Programs

WASPC administers a number of important public safety programs on behalf of the State of Washington, including Uniform Crime Reporting, Jail Booking and Reporting, Crime Victim Notification, Auto Theft Prevention, and Sex Offender Address Verification.

These programs are essential public safety programs for state and local law enforcement and help those agencies provide community safety services. These programs are also widely used by the general public in their efforts to remain safe.

2016 ACTION ITEMS:

- *Increase capacity for forensic DNA testing at the WSP Criminal Laboratory System*
- *Provide funding for training to ensure proper use of the state's gang intelligence database*
- *Ensure Sufficient Funding for Statewide Law Enforcement Programs such as Victim Notification, Jail Booking and Reporting System, Sex Offender Address Verification, Uniform Crime Reporting, and Auto Theft Prevention Authority Task Forces*

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About WASPC

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) was founded in 1963 and consists of executive and top management personnel from law enforcement agencies statewide. Our membership includes sheriffs, police chiefs, the Washington State Patrol, the Washington Department of Corrections, and representatives of other number of state and federal agencies. WASPC is the only association of its kind in the nation combining representatives from local, state, tribal, university and federal law enforcement into a single body, working toward a common goal of public safety.

In 1975, the Washington State Legislature recognized WASPC as a “combination of units of local government.” Soon thereafter, the Legislature began providing funding to WASPC to conduct certain state government functions related to public safety, beginning with crime statistics and reporting. Having proven time and again that WASPC can operate certain state public safety programs more efficiently and effectively than state agencies, the Legislature has continued to ask WASPC to operate a growing programs on behalf of the state. These programs include:

Crime Statistics & Reporting—WASPC collects crime data and publishes an annual ‘**Crime in Washington**’ report, which also serves as **Washington’s depository for reporting to the FBI’s** National Incident Based Reporting System and the FBI’s annual ‘Crime in the United States’ report.

Sex Offender Management—WASPC administers **Washington’s statewide sex offender website**, administers funding for the **sex offender address verification** program, and permanent electronic retention and retrieval of **archived sex offender records**.

Auto Theft Prevention Authority—WASPC manages Washington’s Auto Theft Prevention Authority, which provides coordination and funding for auto theft education, prevention, enforcement, prosecution, and confinement.

Critical Incident Planning and Mapping (aka “school mapping”)—WASPC operates Washington’s first responder database of floor plans, evacuation routes, tactical response plans and other **critical information for Washington’s schools and other critical infrastructure**.

Jail Booking and Reporting—WASPC runs Washington’s statewide jail booking and reporting system. This system is valued as an essential law enforcement database and also provides critical caseload forecasting data.

Crime Victim Notification—WASPC manages Washington’s statewide automated **victim information and notification** system, where victims of crime can register to be notified when their offender is released from incarceration, escapes, is transferred to another facility, or is given a different security classification or custody status.

24/7 Sobriety Monitoring—WASPC operates Washington’s 24/7 Sobriety Program, where DUI offenders submit to at least **twice daily testing for the presence of alcohol** in their system.

Other Essential Programs/Services—WASPC plays a significant role in a number of other public safety programs, including, but not limited to, firearms certification for retired law enforcement officers, administration of the statewide missing persons website, victim notification when a protection order is served, reimbursement of extraordinary criminal justice costs, and creating a number of model policies on topics such as access to private property during wildfires, sex offender management, vehicle pursuits, and more.

WASPC prides itself in the efficiency and effectiveness by which it operates its \$22.7 million biennial funding. WASPC continues to maintain an overall administrative/overhead expense rate of less than 4%. A recent analysis showed that a state agency’s operation of these same programs would cost in excess of \$30 million more per year than the amount provided to WASPC.