



Washington Association of  
**SHERIFFS &  
POLICE CHIEFS**

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**May 7, 2026**

Here are some updates this week- the legislative session is over but there is still a lot going on,

We assume the Governor will soon sign HB 2015, the funding bill, and here is our communication to stakeholders:

1. The effort and the support are appreciated, and would not have occurred at all without the leadership of the Governor;
2. The legislature was led (very) reluctantly to pass the bill and the hurdles and challenges to access funding are reflective of that dynamic; and
3. The legislature, while being “forced” to pass the bill, started from the perspective that law enforcement is the problem, not the solution.

Point number three was made clear in a constituent newsletter from a legislator in the majority who stated: *This bill Improves public safety funding by providing resources to local governments and state and local criminal justice agencies and authorizing a local option tax. This is a bold step toward justice, accountability, and true community safety by shifting how we invest in public safety. It moves away from a one-size-fits-all policing model and ensures local governments can tailor solutions to their own communities.*

My comment: Justice for whom? Accountability for criminals, or police? You can raise your own taxes, but only on our terms, and you have to jump through hoops for the privilege?

One of the many impediments for grants or sustainable funds: if a community chooses to implement an added local sales tax, data must be reported to WADEPS through Washington State University, the use of force data collection process created by the legislature in 2021. This project has been challenging, with delays, technology problems, and some level of mission creep as the data has expanded. We want to assume good faith and do what we can to create an objective system that provides for the best policy outcomes and increases public trust. The WASPC Legal Advisors group has provided some feedback and concerns with the draft Data Use Agreement (DUA), and that is still in process. Dr. Makin from WSU will be at our conference so we can continue the dialogue and provide feedback.

We will keep an eye on the funding bill and look for improvement and changes in the future if it proves to be less workable than it should be and does not produce the staff increase goal stated by the Governor.

## Spring Conference

Our spring conference is coming up on May 19, and here are resources and information on a couple of speakers and panels ahead of time:

- Chris Hsuing (retired Chief), executive director of [“The Curve”](#) will present *Leading with Purpose: Changing Culture and Building Adaptive, High-Trust Teams*. [Chief Hsuing’s](#) LinkedIn profile has more information so you can become more familiar with their leadership concepts.
- Dr. Roland Fryer, will provide a sponsored presentation on [Sigma Squared](#), as well as a conversation on challenging us to think critically about leadership and performance metrics. Here are two videos (they are both about an hour but are worth checking out). [Here](#) is an interview from “Freakanomics Radio” titled “Roland Fryer Refuses to Lie to Black America”, and [here](#) is a video of a discussion with university students about use of force and crime.
- The IIT/OII Ad Hoc committee will meet to talk about experiences so far with OII investigations and discuss what has gone well, and what causes concerns. This will not be a panel as we have had before, but a facilitated discussion led by Clark County Sheriff Horch and Mt. Vernon Chief Christman, the co-chairs of the committee.
- There will be a financial planning panel and a “Retire Well” panel to provide insights about what we should all be doing to prepare for future retirement (whether its two or 20 years away) both financially and in terms of wellness. We are not suggesting any of you retire... our profession needs you! But, we want to support you in thriving when you do.
- WASPC Pres./Redmond Chief Darrell Lowe and Marysville Chief Erik Scairpon will facilitate a panel on the State Auditor’s Office audits on certification and disciplinary notifications to the CJTC. Both agencies had the first audits and they will report out how they went.
- Kent Chief Rafael Padilla and Fife Chief Pete Fisher will lead separate presentations on innovative programs to address domestic violence and homelessness issues in their respective communities.
- The Public Trust Committee will hear from an expert panel on how to engage with youth in our communities.
- We will also have our legislative update, general business meeting which includes the election of board members, and the banquet where three life memberships will be presented, along with accreditation recognition.

## Immigration and Lawsuits

Washington has the Keep Washington Working (KWW) law, and the current initiatives of the President’s administration and federal government are in conflict with our state statute. Law enforcement has been placed in the middle. As I am sure you know, the State Attorney General is suing Adams County. These types of conflicts and lawsuits occur in other states as well where their state laws may be in conflict with federal initiatives. Our State’s Sheriffs and Chiefs have opinions about these issues, shared both publicly and privately. We are trying to navigate through it all and focus on public safety in our communities. The bottom line: state law limits cooperation with

federal authorities under KWW, and it is also clear that impeding federal jurisdiction is also not appropriate or lawful. Federal law enforcement has its lane, and local law enforcement respects it, will assist when legal, necessary, and appropriate, particularly when it involves officer safety or public safety, and will not impede or interfere with that federal jurisdiction. If and when litigation provides guidance, Sheriffs and Chiefs will follow the law as it is defined by any future court case. If KWW is upheld, we are where we are now. If it is voided through a lawsuit, each individual Sheriff or Chief would be legally allowed to provide additional federal assistance and partnership based on their decisions and what is best for their community.

This week the Sheriffs received the following communication from the National Sheriffs Association:

*Dear Sheriffs,*

*As many of you are aware, on Monday, April 28th, President Trump signed a new executive order titled "Protecting American Communities from Criminal Aliens." This order directs the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, to publish within 30 days of the order (by Wednesday, May 28th) a list of all states and local jurisdictions identified as obstructing the enforcement of federal immigration laws, commonly referred to as sanctuary jurisdictions.*

*If your office has not yet entered into a 287(g) program — whether under the Jail Enforcement Model, Task Force Model, or Warrant Service Officer Model — and you are interested in doing so before the list is formally published, **we strongly encourage you to act quickly.***

*We have heard indications that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may move to publish this list even sooner than the 30-day window. Therefore, we recommend that interested agencies promptly reach out to discuss how to expedite your agreement and enrollment in the 287(g) program. Please contact both;*

- Your Field Office Director (FOD)
- Keith Pearson, Senior Counsel at DHS – [keith.pearson@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:keith.pearson@hq.dhs.gov)

*For more detailed information on the different 287(g) partnership models and how to participate, please visit the official ICE resource page here: <https://www.ice.gov/identify-and-arrest/287g>*

*Thank you for your ongoing commitment to public safety and for your leadership in navigating these critical national issues. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you need*

*further assistance or coordination. Tom Blank, Senior Advisor, [Tblank@sheriffs.org](mailto:Tblank@sheriffs.org) and Yesim Karaman, Director of Government Affairs [ykaraman@sheriffs.org](mailto:ykaraman@sheriffs.org) are available to answer your questions.*

*Sincerely,  
Jonathan Thompson*

This email was sent nationally and pertains specifically to those states that do not have prohibitions on programs like 287(g). However, the environment in our state, as you can plainly see, is that if you follow state law, you may be listed by the federal government as an obstructing local jurisdiction, which could result in lawsuits, grant funding reductions, etc., just as the federal government has created consequences for certain policy decisions in past administrations. At the same time, if you follow federal priorities as they suggest, you risk being accused of violating state KWW laws and a lawsuit from the State Attorney General. Both of these things are true. Damned if you do, damned if you don't, so be damned careful.

WASPC is here as a resource. We would like to see some legal resolution as soon as possible, so we all know the legal expectations, and for each of you to be able to best ensure public safety in your communities. We will continue to communicate that no one should be afraid to call 911 if they need help, regardless of documentation.

Here are two additional documents related to these issues. The [first](#) is an analysis of the role of local government in immigration from the Washington State Municipal Research and Services Center, which conducts non-partisan analysis for cities around the state. The [second](#) is the complaint in regard to the charging of the Municipal Judge in the Milwaukee, WI area for impeding federal immigration. It is worth reading so you know the issues if something like this were to occur in your jurisdiction.

### **Medal Of Honor Ceremony**

Finally, I was honored to be asked to speak at the 2025 Law Enforcement Medal of Honor Ceremony last week in Olympia. [Here](#) is the ceremony if you wish to see it- and special thanks to Cowlitz County Sheriff Brad Thurman who has represented WASPC on the Medal of Honor Committee for many years. The ceremony was a good reminder of the amazing work the 11,000 members of our law enforcement community in this state do each day!

Thanks for all you do, stay safe- Steve