



Washington Association of  
**SHERIFFS &  
POLICE CHIEFS**

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**March 16, 2026**

Greetings from your Executive Director:

As this year's legislative session concludes here are a number of updates:

SB 6002 (License Plate Readers)

The license plate reader has been passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature. Those who participated in our Friday legislative webinars knew well that WASPC had significant concerns with the bill as it was introduced and passed the Senate. We were pleased to be able to work with the House to make significant amendments to the bill. We are thankful that the House adopted the amendments that it did. Some of the amendments that we requested that were adopted by the House included:

- Eliminating the term and confusing definition of "watch list"
- Correcting conflicting retention provisions; and
- Allowing ALPRs to be used for any gross misdemeanor offense.

We were not successful in some of our other amendment requests including:

- including NCIC as a data source to compare ALPR data against;
- extending the retention schedule to at least 30 days;
- modifying the sensitive locations language to make mobile ALPRs practicable; or
- removing the gross misdemeanor crime for misuse of an ALPR system.

Our policy team is passing along the attached summary of the bill for your convenience - please do not rely on this summary for any decision, and check with your legal advisor. The bill does have an emergency clause so it will become effective as soon as it is signed. We will be interested in any feedback on whether this law change and the guidelines will lead to agencies turning on systems after having shut them off. Related to that question may be the types of systems themselves, as evidenced by this [story](#) and others. Appropriate guardrails are necessary, and we will work on this issue if any changes are necessary in the future. For your information, [here](#) is the ALPR model policy as developed by the International Chief of Police Association (IACP).

One of the fascinating elements of license plate readers and technology is how perspectives change. In Minneapolis, the [city council](#) and some immigration activists want the ALPR footage saved longer than

usual before it's automatically deleted, because the footage can document what federal agents are doing. As the article points out, "even groups and council members normally opposed to government surveillance support the idea." As the old saying goes, where you stand is where you sit.

### Police staffing

After we issued this [statement](#) on police staffing, and the fact that per capita numbers have actually gone down in the past year, there were a number of media stories on the topic.

- [WA remains last in nation in per capita police staffing - MyNorthwest.com](#)
- [No cops hired so far with WA's new \\$100M grant program • Washington State Standard](#)
- ['Not even treading water': Washington state continues to lag in police hiring](#)

[Here](#) is a letter regarding concerns from a number of Mayors on the slow process for the grant and taxing authority process. CJTC did send notice out this week that Kent and Black Diamond have been approved for funding.

### SB 5974

[Here](#) is the Qualifications bill as it passed the legislature. [Here](#) is a request for a veto sent out by the Board of the Washington State Sheriffs Association on Wednesday. There will also very likely be litigation either from prosecutors or public interest law firms about the bill. Although legislators, social media and others really, really want it to be about one or two specific County Sheriffs, it's really about the Office of Sheriff and the rights of the voters. As the letter says very effectively: The central issue raised by SB 5974 is not about whether sheriffs should be accountable- of course they should. The question is who should have the final authority to remove an elected sheriff from office. The bill uses a professional certification process- designed to regulate a profession- to override and displace voter choice. WASPC has steadfastly opposed this bill and will continue to support Washington's Sheriffs on this issue.

### Litigation and Civil Lawsuits

The long-term sustainability of providing government services, including jails, in light of the civil lawsuit environment in this state is a concern, highlighted by rapidly increasing health provider costs that has providers talking about leaving our state. Ric Bishop, WASPC jail liaison, has passed along [this](#) opinion from the State Supreme Court which contains an important decision. It allows for critical additional defenses to be raised about the behavior and choices of the person involved in civil cases; this may have a positive effect on jail civil cases. You may wish to make your legal advisor and jail manager aware of it.

### OII/IIT and State Auditor's Report

The State Auditor's Office (SAO) is required both to audit each Independent Investigation of deadly force, and also issue a capstone [report](#) providing an overview of the audits. If you review individual reports or the capstone, you will see a very consistent theme: the underlying investigations are objective and thorough, and findings are almost always about certain conflict of interest forms, reports to the public as required even when there is no new information, or community representatives. The OII/IIT Ad Hoc Committee, with Chief Christman, Sheriff Horch and WSP Capt. Scharff is working on creating uniformity for these consistent minor issues mentioned in IIT audits. There will be an Ad Hoc meeting at the May conference to cover these issues. Also, [here](#) is a recent article about changes at OII.

In addition, with the upcoming retirement of Tukwila Chief Eric Drever from the OII Advisory Committee, we have been asked by the Governor's Office for three Sheriffs or Chiefs to be considered for that committee- the advisory board itself will make a set of recommendations and the appointment will be the Governor's decision, but they do want some input from us. Please let President Nowels or I know if you are interested.

Pasco Chief Ken Roske has announced his retirement and [here](#) is the invitation and information about his retirement celebration. Ken has been a key leader in many areas, including assisting with setting up the regional CJTC training academy in Pasco.

We need interested persons for two committees- please find the information below and be aware that if anyone has indicated interest previously we are often asked for more than one applicant for appointment from the Governor.

1. The [Public Safety Review Committee](#), which is appointed by the Governor; it is my understanding the member does not have to be a Chief or Sheriff.
2. The Judicial Information Systems Committee ([JISC](#)) is [seeking applicants](#) who "have demonstrated an interest and commitment to judicial administration and to automation of judicial systems and functions." The Court is seeking at least two applicants.

If you're interested, or have questions, just let me know.

Thanks for all you do and stay safe- Steve