

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS

2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

As adopted by the WASPC membership on November 14, 2018 in Chelan, WA.

LAW AND JUSTICE DAY

FEBRUARY 13, 2019 • 9:00 AM • COLUMBIA ROOM

BASIC LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

One of the cornerstones of Washington's world class law enforcement system is a centralized training academy where all law enforcement officers learn the basics of policing, including constitutional law, proper tactics, crisis intervention training (CIT), and de-escalation techniques.

Washington's law enforcement agencies have struggled, for more than a decade, with excessive wait times getting a recruit into the academy, causing a multitude of preventable public safety challenges.

Addressing the capacity needs of the Basic Law Enforcement Academy requires 4 distinct actions:

1. Amend RCW 43.101.200 to require basic training to begin within two months of employment;
2. Increase the maintenance-level number of BLEA classes each state fiscal year to no less than 15;
3. Fund at least 19 BLEA classes each for FY 20 and FY 20; and
4. Fund a separate, special appropriation to the Governor to fund additional BLEA classes as caseloads require.

STABLE, DEDICATED FUNDING FOR PROACTIVE POLICING

Each of Washington's communities face their own unique public safety challenges. Whether they be the impacts of illicit marijuana operations, opioid abuse, property crimes, firearm offenses, or something else, unmet law enforcement needs exist in each of Washington's 281 cities and towns, and the 39 counties in which they are located.

Simultaneously, Washington State continues to have the lowest number of law enforcement officers per capita in the country—a dubious distinction continuously held since 2010.

Washington law enforcement agencies need stable, dedicated, and ongoing funding to address the unique public safety challenges as determined by their own community.

These funds should be sufficient and stable enough to hire additional full-time law enforcement officers. These funds should not be subject to political whims and competing priorities of state or local legislative authorities. These funds should not be allowed to supplant existing funding.

STRATEGIC LEGISLATIVE GOALS:

- *Improve the State's Mental Health System*
- *Increase capacity for forensic laboratory services available to Washington law enforcement agencies*
- *Ensure Sufficient Funding for Statewide Law Enforcement Programs such as Victim Notification, Jail Booking and Reporting System, Sex Offender Address Verification, Uniform Crime Reporting, Denied Firearms Tracking and Investigation, Mental Health Field Response, and Auto Theft Prevention Authority Task Forces*

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Leading collaboration among law enforcement executives to enhance public safety since 1963.

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.

Unlawful Attempts to Purchase Firearms—WASPC built Washington’s system of receiving reports of unlawful attempts to purchase a firearm, transmits that data to state and local law enforcement agencies, and administers a grant program to assist in the investigation of these crimes.

Mental Health Field Response—WASPC administers a grant program for law enforcement agencies to partner with a mental health professional to professionally, humanely, and safely respond to encounters involving persons with mental health issues.

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 \$24.8 million biennial funding. WASPC continues to maintain an overall administrative/overhead expense rate of less than 5%. A 2012 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.