

# WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS

# 2018 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

*As approved by the WASPC membership during the 2017 Fall Conference in Chelan.*

## LAW AND JUSTICE DAY

JANUARY 30, 2018 • 9:00 AM • COLUMBIA ROOM

### MENTAL HEALTH FIELD RESPONSE

Mental health continues to be one of Washington's greatest public safety challenges, and Washington State continues to fail those who suffer from mental illness.

Though having a mental illness is not illegal, law enforcement officers continue to be the "solution" sought for those who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

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.

Washington State should develop the capability to have qualified mental health professionals, trained to assist those in a mental health crisis, capable of responding to assist a person in crisis 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

While a law enforcement presence may continue to be necessary for safety reasons, a person in crisis deserves to be helped by a trained mental health professional.

### ADMISSIBILITY OF TRIBAL RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS

Washington law allows records and proceedings from federal courts, and courts from other states and territories to be admitted into state courts, but there is no provision in current law to allow tribal records and proceedings to be admissible in state court.

As a result, prior tribal convictions of a repeat offender are not considered in a current proceeding against that person. This is especially relevant in domestic

violence and DUI cases, where prior convictions for the same/similar offenses make the current offense a felony.

Washington State should allow tribal records and proceedings to be admissible in state court.

Prosecutors would still be required to show that the records are authentic, and that any prior conviction is comparable to its counterpart in the RCW.

### STRATEGIC LEGISLATIVE GOALS:

- *Improve the State's Mental Health System*
- *Increase capacity for forensic DNA testing at the WSP Criminal Laboratory System*
- *Address Unintended Consequences of the Public Records Act*
- *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*

**James McMahan**  
*WASPC Policy Director*  
*Office: (360) 486-2394*



*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.

**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.**