



## **FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**

### **Resolution 2012-1**

#### **Oppose Term-Limits of the Constitutional Office of the Sheriff**

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Sheriffs Association ("FSA") was founded in 1893; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Sheriffs, through FSA, are united in purpose and voice for the protection of Florida's citizens, visitors, and taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, FSA monitors activities by individuals and organizations which impact the ability of Sheriff's Offices to carry out the obligations and duties imposed upon them by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of Florida's Sheriffs are elected Constitutional Officers, directly accountable to the constituents they serve; and

**WHEREAS**, term limits for Sheriffs would serve to strip the voters of exercising their right to vote for the best qualified candidates and would prohibit constituents from retaining a Sheriff who has a proven record of providing quality law enforcement services; and

**WHEREAS**, Sheriffs of Florida are Executive Officers of their agencies and, as elected officials, provide checks and balances to national, state, and local elected and appointed government officials; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Florida Constitution, Article VIII, Section 1(d), voters have the option to vote out or retain a Sheriff every four years; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent transition of agency heads results in disruption of services and often great turmoil, potentially decreasing the ability to provide quality law enforcement services; and

**WHEREAS**, mandated turnover is counterproductive to long-term visioning, implementation of best practices, and improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, House Joint Resolution 785 and Senate Joint Resolution 1070 have been filed that would amend the Florida Constitution to allow charter counties to limit the terms a Sheriff can serve; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Constitution was established to create a framework of stable, functional government; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed resolution could compromise the stability of the Constitutional framework by reacting to a topical issue of limited concern;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Florida Sheriffs Association adamantly opposes any changes that would undermine or eliminate the Constitutional Office of Sheriff as currently provided in the Florida Constitution.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2012** by the General Membership of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

**FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION:**

Sheriff Ben Johnson  
President

**ATTEST:**

Steve Casey  
Executive Director