



Florida Sheriffs Association 2018 Legislative Priorities

Increase Residential Commitment Programs for Juvenile Offenders

The Department of Juvenile Justice has seen a drastic reduction in its capacity to provide residential commitment programs for repeat juvenile offenders. Many times a judge sentences a juvenile to a residential program, that juvenile is sent home to wait for an opening for these scarce beds. This results in juveniles being placed back into the community under home detention and in many cases, translates into more crimes committed. There is a sect of repeat juvenile offenders who are responsible for committing multiple crimes. Evidence of these juvenile offenders can be seen across the state and is getting worse every day.

- Support increased funding for more residential commitment programs in order to decrease waiting periods for youth who need this evidence-based residential programming

Texting While Driving as a Primary Offense

Texting While Driving is a problem in every state in our country and Florida is no different. In 2013, the Legislature enacted a law to make texting while driving a secondary offense, punishable as a nonmoving traffic violation and a \$30 fine. Florida is currently one of only four states that enforce texting while driving as a secondary offense, which is very difficult to enforce unless the driver has committed another traffic infraction. Making texting while driving a primary offense will allow law enforcement to enforce the law and save lives in the process.

- Support SB 90 by Sen. Perry and HB 121 by Rep. Slosberg



Florida Sheriffs Association Legislative Platform

Prevention & Youth Services

Civil Citations: Oppose a statewide mandate of issuing civil citations to all juveniles. The Florida Sheriffs Association supports improving the current program with enhanced data collection to ensure deputies have the most up-to-date information available to them before issuing a civil citation.

Law Enforcement

Elected Sheriffs: Support an amendment to Florida's Constitution to ensure all sheriffs are elected by the citizens of their county.

Blue Lives Matter: Support legislation that protects law enforcement officers in the line of duty.

Jails, Corrections & Re-Entry

Early Release: Support Truth in Sentencing laws requiring convicted criminals to serve at least 85% of their sentence.

Mandatory Minimum Sentencing: Oppose the elimination of mandatory minimum sentences.

Expunction of Criminal Records: Oppose unlimited expunction of criminal records.

State Sentencing: Oppose the sentencing of state inmates to county jails, but the Florida Sheriffs Association supports sheriffs' ability to individually contract with the Department of Corrections for housing state inmates.

Gaming

Gambling: Oppose the expansion of any gambling, including Casino Resorts or Internet poker.

Administration

Florida Retirement System: Support returning length of service to 25 years and the retirement age to 55 years for Special Risk Class employees.

Florida Retirement System: Support legislation to assess the financial impact and necessary funding required for an ad hoc cost of living adjustment for future Special Risk Class retirees.

Budget

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training Funding: Support continued funding to train law enforcement officers to safely assess and identify people in mental health crisis and help connect them with community treatment, and keep them out of the criminal justice system.

Community Mental Health Funding: Support funding for mental health services that will assist persons after they are released from county jails and have to transition back into the community.

Sexual Offender/Predator Registry Improvements: Support continued funding to FDLE for critical updates to the electronic statewide registration process.