

INFORMATION SHOWS THIS WAS BROUGHT TO THE COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE BECAUSE...

Commissioner Judy Shiprack believes an appointed Sheriff would aid in the efforts already underway in criminal justice reform that is happening across the Country.

WHY WOULD MULTNOMAH COUNTY WANT TO BE THE CENTER PIECE OF NATIONAL POLITICAL PUSH FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM?

- There are 36 Counties in the State of Oregon – ALL ARE ELECTED
- 48 States elect their Sheriffs.
 - Only 2 States do not –
 - Alaska utilized State Troopers to perform duties normally associated with a Sheriff. This is largely due to the wide distribution of their population.
 - Connecticut abolished Sheriffs in 2000 with Constables governing their respective town/city.
 - **Politics and Media** have been pushing the agenda of racism toward African/Americans Nation wide. Statistics **DO NOT** support their assertions against LEO and jail population.
 - In 2010 – 197 million Americans were non-hispanic white or 63% of the population; 38 million Americans were African/American or 12.6% of the population.
 - If you take in account the actual population vs violent crimes committed – African/Americans committed 200x more offenses against whites.
 - Though no one wants to address this issues of the African/American cultural issues due to the easy labelling of being racist, but it is shown that the decline of the family unit since after segregation has a significant impact on their culture.
 - Gang association needs to be addressed more vigorously. This accounts for a majority of arrests due to violence, guns and drugs. The increased aggression and lack of respect for authority figures has been noted in male African/Americans.
 - Maybe more money needs to be spent on treating gang violence as domestic terrorism with the accompanying penalties to detract from joining gangs; improving living conditions; employment/education opportunities instead of trying to blame the legal system.
 - **The audit conducted on the jail did not elaborate the TYPES of incidences that required use of force in the first place. Was this also due to increased aggression or actual police misconduct?**

Commissioner Judy Shiprack is in favour of making the Sheriff an appointed position. She said elected Sheriffs have not worked closely with the commission on issues ranging from reducing in overtime payments (**the Sheriff's office has returned money EVERY YEAR TO THE COUNTRY EXCEPT 1 under Sheriff Staton. It has REPEATEDLY BEEN POINTED OUT TO COUNCIL that OT is MORE COST EFFECTIVE than hiring new employees whom would require benefits**) to management of the county's jails (**Vice Chair Victoria Purvine replied that the last three annual Multnomah County Grand Jury report on the jail said management has been improving**) which are under the Sheriff's jurisdiction.

"We would gain by having the Sheriff brought into a partnership structurally and not be a stand-alone position," said Shiprack.

- The Sheriff's department is a stand-alone agency to ensure equal treatment not based on political views or swayed by loyalty to the Commission.
- The Sheriff is meant to protect and serve the citizens that nominated him/her based on following the laws of the federal, state and county judicial system. He/she is to protect and enforce The United States Constitution; Oregon Constitution and the Multnomah County laws voted on by the citizens of Multnomah County.
- Multnomah County has the largest population (766,135) and smallest size (466 sq miles).
 - Though Portland is the most populated area in Multnomah County, it is not the main focus of the Sheriff's Dept because it has it's own Police Department, as does the City of Gresham.
 - However, a majority of services are readily available to Portland vs the rural areas and receive a large portion of finances/programs offered to the residents of Multnomah County.
 - These other departments are not the same as the Sheriff's Office/Corrections. The Sheriff's office also is responsible to:
 - Service and protect 3-4 million tourists/visitors per year to the Columbia River Gorge.
 - Unit Patrols 286 sq miles.
 - River Patrol is responsible for patrolling 110 miles of waterway, boat exams, citations & warnings.
 - Search and Rescue.
 - Dive Team.
 - Mass Casualty Coordination.
 - Asst other agencies (ICEP Team; Human Trafficking; CAT; DV; Elder Abuse; Metro Services/Clean up sites; Hazmat; SIU; Corrections Support; CERT etc.
 - All of the above AND the jails.
 - Detention Center with a 448 capacity (16% have mental issues).
 - Inverness with a 1000+ capacity (more than ANY other jail in OR). Inverness has 90,000 inmate visits per year.
 - **IF THIS IS DONE - HOW WILL THE BUDGET BE MANAGED TO ENSURE NO SPECIFIC DISTRICT OR CITY OBTAINS PRIORITY OVER LESS POPULATED LOCATIONS IN THE COUNTY???**

UNTIL THIS YEAR (PER COUNCIL AGENDA MEETING MINUTES) THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR ISSUES ADDRESSED CONCERNING THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE EXCEPT FOR BUDGETARY AND CONTRACTUAL ISSUES.

THE TIMING OF THIS PROPOSAL SEEMS TO COINCIDE WITH THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SHERIFF STATON, WHICH HAVE YET TO BE PROVEN AND THE COUNTY CHOSE TO REFER THIS TO THE STATE AG PRIOR TO CONDUCTING IT'S OWN INVESTIGATION.

OREGON STATE CONSTITUTION

The Act of Congress admitting Oregon into the Union was approved February 14, 1859, and on that date the Constitution went into effect.

ARTICLE VI ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

Section 6. County Officers: There shall be elected in each county by the qualified electors thereof at the time of holding general elections, a county clerk, treasurer and **sheriff** who shall severally hold their offices for the term of four years. [Constitution of 1859; Amendment proposed by initiative petition filed June 9, 1920, and adopted by the people Nov. 2, 1920; Amendment proposed by H.J.R. 7, 1955, and **adopted by the people Nov. 6, 1956**]

Section 8. County officers' qualifications; location of offices of county and city officers; duties of such officers. Every county officer shall be an elector of the county, and the county assessor, county sheriff, county coroner and county surveyor shall possess such other qualifications as may be prescribed by law. All county and city officers shall keep their respective offices at such places therein, and perform such duties, as may be prescribed by law. [Constitution of 1859; Amendment proposed by H.J.R. 7, 1955, and adopted by the people Nov. 6, 1956; Amendment proposed by H.J.R. 42, 1971, and adopted by the people Nov. 7, 1972; Amendment proposed by H.J.R. 22, 1973, and adopted by the people Nov. 5, 1974]

ARTICLE VII (Original) THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Section 16. Sheriff. A sheriff shall be elected in each County for the term of Two years, who shall be the ministerial officer of the Circuit, and County Courts, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.—

(Sections 1-9 concerning Judges and Juries have been amended in Article VII. No other amendments noted regarding Article VII)

MULTNOMAH COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER VOTER ACTIONS

May 24, 1966

Original Charter approved.

6.50. Sheriff.

The people of Multnomah County shall elect a county sheriff for the function of said office as prescribed by state law and he or she shall have sole administration of all county jails and correctional institutions located in Multnomah County.

[Amendment proposed by initiative petition, filed Oct. 8, 1981, adopted by people May 18, 1982, reaffirmed Sept. 2, 1982; amendment proposed by Ord. 427 §2 (1984) (ballot measures 16, 17, 18, 19, 20), adopted by people Nov. 6, 1984; amendment proposed by Ord. 500 (1986), adopted by people May 21, 1986; amendment proposed by Ord. 659 §2 (1990) (measure 3), adopted by people Nov. 6, 1990; amendment (ballot measure 26-76) adopted by people Nov. 3, 1998; amendment (ballot measure 26-59) adopted by people Nov. 2, 2004; amendment (ballot measure 26-78) adopted by people May 16, 2006; amendment (ballot measure 26-111) adopted by people Nov. 2, 2010]

NONE OF THE LISTED AMENDMENTS TO THIS SECTION PERTAINED TO WHETHER THE SHERIFF WAS ELECTED OR APPOINTED. THEREFORE, THE CHARTER DOES NOT SUPERCEDE THE CONSTITUTION.