



WHAT DOES THE SHERIFF DO?

Sheriffs are the **primary law enforcement agency** in many rural and suburban communities.

SHERIFFS WIELD A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF **UNCHECKED POWER*** TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT TOPICS LIKE...

(*Sheriffs are elected to 4-year terms by voters like you, and do not have direct oversight by the state.)

1. ARRESTS

Determine **what offenses** people can be arrested for, **how severe** certain penalties are, and **who and how many** people go to jail.*

- Sheriffs can choose to send youth and other low-risk offenders to diversion programs that can often avoid a permanent criminal record.

2. IMMIGRATIONS

Have wide discretion over **whether and how to cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)**.

- Ex: 287(g) is a voluntary agreement with ICE that authorizes local deputies to act as immigration agents. This has become a major funnel into the nation's deportation infrastructure.

3. EVICCTIONS

Serve eviction notices, enforce eviction orders — including physical removal of tenants and their belongings — and **oversee foreclosure auctions** once people are evicted from their homes.

4. HEALTH & SAFETY IN JAILS*

Have control over **how detainees with physical and mental health conditions receive care**, including access to medication.

***JAIL IS DIFFERENT THAN PRISON.**

Jails are temporary holding facilities for people awaiting trial or sentencing or those newly arrested — some of whom may not have been convicted or charged with a crime.

5. SCHOOL SAFETY

Train, place, and oversee the School Resource Officer (SRO) program in N.C. public schools.

- Through this partnership with local school systems, SRO programs can lead to increased juvenile arrests, contributing to the school-to-prison-to-deportation pipeline.



Make your voice heard!

Vote and have a say in who will be your county sheriff!

