



The Greater Bloomington
Chamber of Commerce

Please return responses to the Chamber's Director of Advocacy, Chris Emge, via email at cemge@chamberbloomington.org

COUNTY Sheriff and Prosecutor

1. Monroe County government has undertaken a criminal justice study. What changes to the current system do you support, and why?

I have spent 31 years as an officer with the Indiana State Police. I choose a career in law enforcement as a means of improving the relationship between law enforcement and the various communities in which I serve. During my career, I have volunteered on several community boards and committees, I have provided hundreds of training programs regarding diversity to police officers and the community alike.

I also have the honor of being appointed as the first Equity and Inclusion Officer with the Indiana State Police. Nevertheless, after a full career with ISP, I am reaching the time for my retirement—but I still feel like there is much more to do.

I am seeking office to continue to improve on and develop effective communication between the police and the communities in order to alleviate long-standing community distrust and other historical barriers that impact effective police-community partnerships.

The first step to improving communication is to have a series of open in-person facilitated programs, engaging the Monroe County Sheriff's Department and community residents in an open dialogue to identify issues and work together to develop collaborative solutions that will improve police-community partnerships. I want to use the office to improve public safety by strengthening trust and developing partnerships between law enforcement and the diverse communities we serve.

2. What are the top 3 challenges facing the office? How do you plan to address those challenges in your next term?

1. Increase Public Safety

This should be the ultimate goal of law enforcement, and I believe it's accomplished by:

- Being transparent
- Increasing accountability
- Acknowledging the challenges our community is facing and discussing them with residents
- Working hand-in-hand with social service programs
- Working to gain public trust

2. Reduce the Rate of Recidivism and Reentry in the Justice System

This is possible through:

- Providing diversion programs
- Working hand-in-hand with social service programs that provide support to individuals who have recently left jail or prison
- Education
- Training

3. Increase Training for all Sheriff's Office Employees

- Crisis Intervention and De-escalation Techniques
- Cultural Awareness for Law Enforcement
- Implicit Bias: Understanding it's Impact on Actions & Decisions
- Police Response to Mental Illness

4. Expand Public Outreach and Community Engagement through the Police & Community Partnership Program

- Citizen's Police Academy
- Do's and Don'ts at a traffic stop Program
- New Resident Orientations
- International Resident Orientation
- Bring community members and police officers together in a neutral setting outside of the traditional police service roles

- Building a safer community through education by tailoring our educational endeavors to meet our community needs

