

Good morning. I'm Sheriff Tim Rogers. I've been Sheriff of Coshocton County for the past nine years. I am also the President of the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association.

Thank you for your time and consideration today as we at the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association spend the next 30 minutes or so telling you about whom **we are, about the office of Sheriff**, how it's evolved and about the **wide range of duties and responsibilities** for Ohio sheriff's today.

I believe after listening to myself and two of my fellow sheriffs, you will conclude that **Ohio sheriffs provide quality, cost effective law enforcement at a crucial local level.**

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The position of SHERIFF is the oldest law enforcement position in the United States. In fact, it's the oldest in the common law system. We trace our heritage back to ninth century England when the king had a representative in each "Shire." The English brought this system to the new world... making the office of sheriff the first county office established in the United States. Early American Sheriffs were appointed. In Ohio, Sheriffs have been the "**first to serve**" since 1788. The Office of Sheriff became an elected position when Ohio became a state in 1803. The Sheriff is the **only elected law enforcement official.**

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By virtue of our election, we know Ohioans have a say in how their homes, their schools and their businesses are protected.

We live in the counties we serve. We take an oath to serve and protect our neighbors. It's a job that is ever expanding, as you will hear when Sheriff Walter Davis presents the duties of a sheriff. In all that we do, your Ohio Sheriffs strive every day to provide **quality and comprehensive law enforcement in a fiscally responsible manner.**

Exactly How each Sheriff's Office accomplishes this can vary because we have 88 counties in Ohio. That's 88 Sheriff's. What we need in Coshocton County differs from the demands in Hamilton County or Guernsey County. What we share is a

passion for public service and an understanding that everyone who lives in, works in or visits our county deserves the highest level of safety service. We are each closely connected to the needs of the community we are elected to serve.

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We are also connected to each other through the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association.

The BSSA was founded in 1931. For nearly 80 years, this state-wide Sheriffs' Association has served as a crucial coordinating group. It helps individual county Sheriffs stay educated on the latest law enforcement techniques, technology, legal precedent, legislative action and training. The BSSA acts as an information exchange between the 88 sheriffs offices throughout the state. Membership in the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association is available for Sheriff Office employees and citizens as associate members.

The Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association takes an active role in shaping modern law enforcement. We are proud to have helped form the foundation of state law enforcement.

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You know that criminals are transient. They don't care where the jurisdictional lines are... only where their next target is. That's why we all need to work together. Imagine trying to function in this way without a statewide radio system. The Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association pioneered this system. In 1932, the sheriffs created, in Findlay, Ohio, **the first all police radio** that covered the greater portion of the state. In 1934, this station was turned over to the State of Ohio. In that same visionary role, in 1947, the BSSA recognized the need for a **mobile crime laboratory**. This organization purchased and equipped the necessary vehicle. When it was completed, the mobile crime lab was operated by the State Bureau of Criminal identification and Investigation... and on call for to benefit of all law enforcement in Ohio.

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We continue to be leaders in our field and partners to our fellow criminal justice agencies. We understand, at the community level, the needs of Ohioans.

Homeland security starts at home. We are proud to be chosen by the voter, to be the first to serve and the first line of protection in our own communities and in the great State of Ohio.

Next Delaware County Sheriff Walter Davis will detail the numerous important and unique ways Ohio Sheriffs serve our citizens. Sheriff Davis was appointed to his position in 2007 and chosen by the voters in 2008. He retired from the Ohio State Highway Patrol after nearly three decades of service. Sheriff Davis has a degree in criminal justice from Cuyahoga Community College and next month will complete his degree in Political Science from Ohio Dominican University. He is a graduate of the National Sheriff's Institute. Sheriff Davis is focused bringing new technology and training to his force while leading a fiscally responsible office and enhancing the partnership between the sheriff's office and the citizens it serves. Please welcome, Delaware County Sheriff Walter L. Davis, III.