

Hampden County sheriff's race – List of materials

Here are materials that will help voters in your county take part in the first-ever statewide campaign to educate the public about candidates for sheriff and the issues that arise at county Houses of Correction (HOC's) and jails:

- 1) Overview of the importance of sheriff's races;
- 2) Fact sheet about your county's HOC and jail;
- 3) List of candidates for sheriff;
- 4) More detailed information on how to contact each candidate (especially for #5);
- 5) Questionnaire for candidates for sheriff.

The questionnaire is a Word document so you can adapt it to fit your needs. There are blanks for you to fill in the name of your organization, an email address for responses and a date by which candidates should send their responses (we suggest two weeks, with weekly reminders for those who don't respond).

We encourage Hampden County voters and organizations to find out where candidates stand on the issues. You can then use this information to:

- Discuss at candidate forums that you organize or participate in;
- Issue reports on the candidates;
- Work to elect or defeat candidates;
- Make endorsements;
- Make candidate responses available to other organizations and the press;
- Write letters to the editor about candidates.

These materials were drafted as a collective effort for the Ad Hoc Coalition to Stop New Jails in Massachusetts, a group that works to enact policies that would reduce the incarceration. If you have questions, please contact:

- Lois Ahrens, Real Cost of Prisons Project, lois@realcostofprisons.org;
- Barb Dougan, National Lawyers Guild (Mass. Chapter), bdougan2731@gmail.com;
- Dorothy Weitzman, National Association of Social Workers (Mass. Chapter), Weitzman@bc.edu.

Finally, we'd greatly appreciate it if you would send a copy of any questionnaire responses you receive and any press generated to Lois Ahrens.

July 1, 2016