

Berkshire 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 sheriffs' races;
- 2) Fact sheet about your county's HOC and jail;
- 3) Information about Sheriff Bowler and his re-election campaign;
- 4) Questionnaire for sheriff as candidate for re-election.

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 the sheriff should send his response (we suggest two weeks, with weekly reminders if you don't get a response).

We encourage Berkshire County voters and organizations to find out where the sheriff stands on the issues. You can then use this information to:

- Discuss at re-election forums that you organize or participate in;
- Educate others on the sheriff's policies;
- Identify needed changes;
- Hold the sheriff accountable.

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.

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