

Questionnaire for Candidates for Sheriff,
November 3, 2026 General Election
(Voters may vote for 1)

Questions

Terry S. Johnson

Shannon Long

Funding/Priorities/Staffing

1. Does the Alamance County sheriff's office (ACSO) receive sufficient funding from the county commissioners?

1a. If not, which areas should get additional funding? [25 word limit]

2. Are current salaries and benefits adequate to attract and retain the best and brightest employees to the ACSO?

2a. If no, what would you do to improve wages and benefits? [25 word limit]

2b. What strategies, if any, *other than improving wages and benefits*, would help attract and retain the best and brightest employees? [25 word limit]

3. Is there a need for more diversity within the ranks of the sheriff's office?

3a. If yes, how would you propose to achieve more diversity? [25 word limit]

4. In setting a priority in making personnel decisions between diversity and experience, which is more important?

4a. Why? [25 word limit]
Local policies

5. Would having one or more additional sheriff's offices, or substations, be a worthwhile endeavor in one or more rural areas of the county? [25-word limit]

5a. If so, where would you prioritize putting one (or more)? [25-word limit]

6. How much of a problem with crime are illegal aliens within Alamance County? [50 word limit]

7. If the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) were to undertake any operations to remove criminal illegal aliens in Alamance County, would you support or oppose such efforts?

8. Would you be willing to have sheriff's deputies assist ICE in:

a. Locating individuals sought by ICE?

b. Turning over criminal aliens who might be jailed in the Alamance County Detention Center?

Law Enforcement

9. Over the past several years, the county's commissioners have attempted to deal with a rather persistent shortage of jailers in the Alamance County Detention Center. What can the county/sheriff's office do to improve recruitment and retention of jail employees? [25 word limit]

1. No.

1a. Due to overcrowding, our Detention Center must be expanded. Our inmates are human beings and should not have to sleep on the floors of our detention facility.

2. No.

2a. I will continue to work with our commissioners to make our employee salaries comparable with surrounding law enforcement agencies.

2b. With support from our commissioners, we will provide our employees with the best possible training to be able to perform our job that our citizens deserve and expect.

3. No.

3a. While the Sheriff's Office is already diverse, we will continue to enhance diversity with proactive recruiting to attract the best qualified applicants.

4. Experience.

4a. Both are very important, however, experience is needed because of the dangers our detention officers and deputies face each day.

5. Yes. We already have one in Green Level which enhances coverage on the northside. This is paid for by Green Level.

5a. We previously operated one in the village of Alamance and recognize the need to have one that will enhance the patrol coverage on the southside.

6. Major. Illegal alien cartels, Tren de Aragua and remnants of Sinaloa have settled in northern Alamance County, in and around Green Level and the city of Burlington. This is a major problem due to drug trafficking and related crimes.

7. Support.

8a. Yes

8b. Yes.

9. Recruitment of detention officers was more successful when funding for sign-on bonuses were available. Many similar agencies across NC are having the same problem.

1. Yes.

1a. N.A.

2. Yes.

2a. N.A.

2b. Improve workplace culture, career development, training, fair promotions, employee recognition, and accountable leadership.

3. Yes.

3a. Expand recruitment partnerships, eliminate unnecessary barriers, ensure fair promotions, and recruit throughout our diverse communities.

4. Experience.

4a. Experience and qualifications must guide personnel decisions while ensuring everyone receives equal opportunity and consideration.

5. Yes. A substation is highly worthwhile if a specific rural pocket has seen a sharp increase in population or crime that justifies a permanent footprint.

5a. Underserved rural areas identified through response-time, call-volume, population-growth, and public-safety data. Study the statistical data for the county that relates to the crime rate.

6. Minor. Official crime data does not show that undocumented immigrants are a major source of violent crime in Alamance County. The U.S. Department of Justice and civil rights organizations state that empirical evidence linking the local immigrant community to elevated crime rates is lacking, noting instead a history of targeting residents for minor infractions.

7. Support.

8a. No.

8b. Yes.

9. Competitive compensation, improved working conditions, adequate staffing, professional development, recognition, build morale, and advancement opportunities.

