



Oklahoma County Sherrif Candidate Virgil Green Reponds to Questionnaire

The ACLU of Oklahoma today sent questionnaires to the candidates for Oklahoma County Sheriff requesting policy positions on a range of subjects.

Candidate Virgil Green's responses can be found below:

Question:	Response:
Timestamp	3/29/17 20:37
Age:	53
Residence:	Oklahoma County
Previous Position(s) Held:	Chief of Police Helena West Helena Police Department. Helena West Helena, Arkansas, Former Chief of Police City of Spencer Police Department Spencer, Oklahoma. Former Chief of Police Boley Police Department, Boley, Oklahoma
Degrees:	Criminal Justice Administration
What are the top 3 issues you would prioritize as the Sheriff of Oklahoma County?	(1) Jail Management (2) How to manage the mental health concerns of Inmates. (3) Raising the pay for detention officers, this will help with recruiting and retaining detention officers.
Assess the recent performance of the sheriff's department. If elected, would you keep it on the same direction or change it course?	I would change its direction to where its more oversight and accountability within the sheriff department.

<p>What reforms, if any, do you believe should be implemented in the Oklahoma County Sheriff's office policy of civil asset forfeiture?</p>	<p>Every citizens has the right to due process hearings related to the seizure of property where law enforcement may believe may have been involved in a criminal activity. I would encourage our legislators to propose legislation that would either limit or end civil asset forfeiture practices.</p>
<p>A recent report commissioned by the a task force studying the Oklahoma County jail found that "money plays an outsized role in who occupies pretrial beds in the Oklahoma County Detention Center." Do you see a role for the Sheriff in advocating for reforms in the bail and pretrial release decision making process and, if so, what reforms do you suggest to ensure that individuals are not needlessly and unconstitutionally jailed because of their inability to make bail? You can read the report here.: http://s3.amazonaws.com/content.newsok.com/documents/2016%2002%2002--%20revised%20Vera%20report%20to%20OKC%20TF%20(002).pdf</p>	<p>If elected as Sheriff I would advocate for reforms that concern individuals who have been arrested for non-violent misdemeanor offenses. In order to reduce the inmate population the Sheriff department has to a leader in looking at ways to reduce jail overcrowding. Law enforcement and the courts need to look at other ways to allow those arrested for low level misdemeanor offenses the ability to bond out of jail. As Sheriff I will work to establish an Inmate Improvement program unit that will assist inmates who have been pre-released to find employment opportunities or mental health services.</p>
<p>The Oklahoma County Jail is currently in a state of crisis with overcrowding nearly twice the maximum occupancy. How do you intend to address this issue?</p>	<p>To address the overcrowding in the jail, the sheriff department needs to work with area law enforcement agencies when individuals are arrested for minor misdemeanor offenses or non-jailable offenses. This would have the potential to reduce the overcrowding within the Oklahoma County Jail. Working to reclassify low level misdemeanor offenses will be a priority of mines if elected as Sheriff.</p>

<p>Minority communities currently are overrepresented in the jail's population. What do you think explains this disparity and what do you have any plans to address the racial disparity amongst detainees?</p>	<p>According to the 2013 United States census the racial makeup of African Americans in Oklahoma was only 10% In the Oklahoma County jail you have more than 10% of the inmate population are African American males. Most of the disparity comes from individuals who cant make bond on low level misdemeanor arrest. Most if not all lack of employment plays a role in them being able to bond out of jail. Another concern would be for those who are employed, but don't have the resources to pay for a bondsman to bond out of jail. If elected as sheriff of Oklahoma County I would like to establish a Advisory Committee, that is made up of faith-base organization, the criminal justice system and law enforcement and community leaders and legislators on ways in reducing racial disparity in Oklahoma County jail.</p>
<p>How do you intend to ensure fair and impartial policing policies are upheld, particularly in serving and protecting people of color and/or immigrants?</p>	
<p>Given the current administration's agenda of mass deportation, would you enforce the policy of a judicial warrant check prior to detaining or prolonging the detention of any individual at the request of ICE and CBP?</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>What are your plans to address mental health and substance abuse concerns that cause low-level offenders to be repeatedly booked without viable diversion alternatives?</p>	<p>If elected as Sheriff, I will establish a mental health advisory board for the Sheriff Department. This board will include State mental health officials, law enforcement and faith-base organizations who could possibly assist in finding a solutions that will keep low-level offenders out of the Oklahoma County jail</p>

Why do you feel Oklahoma has the highest incarceration of women in the nation, and what policies would you enforce to address this issue?	<p>While I think there has been some efforts to reduce incarceration of Oklahoma prisons, there is still a steady growing pace. Oklahoma has to take the lead in looking at how to reform sentencing of women and minorities.</p> <p>Oklahoma leads the nation in women incarcerated in not just State prison, but local county jails. I would again be an advocate to look at other ways to reduce the incarceration of women. We must change our ways toward incarceration of women in order to effect change in the system.</p>
Date:	3/29/17
<p><i>The ACLU of Oklahoma does not endorse candidates for political office, however, as the preeminent defender of civil rights and civil liberties we are undertaking this effort to help educate our membership and voters in general about the critical issues facing our criminal justice system.</i></p>	