



# WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

4718 Ponderosa Drive • Carson City, NV 89701-6735

## RESOLUTION 2004-02

Pertaining to the Office of Sheriff

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Sheriff Mark Benton (Natrona Co.) Alt

**WHEREAS**, recent public policy discussions have in some sheriff's jurisdictions propose substantive reductions in the duties of sheriffs and outright abolishing the Office itself; and

**WHEREAS**, sheriffs in the west have responsibilities for the administration of county correction systems/transportation of prisoners, service of the judicial process, and public safety and investigations handled through the patrol function; and

**WHEREAS**, sheriffs and their deputies are peace officers and exercise law enforcement powers concurrently with state and local agencies within counties of their authority; and

**WHEREAS**, in some sheriff's jurisdiction budget constraints with open discussion of regional approaches and consolidation of services are being considered to eliminate or reduce the sheriff's authority and to change the office from "elected" to "appointive"; and

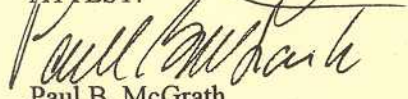
**WHEREAS**, the Office of Sheriff in most all western jurisdictions can only be changed with a Constitutional Amendment before a sheriff can be "appointed"; and


**WHEREAS**, the historical and political significance of electing sheriffs is fundamental to our American form of government: the control of power by vesting it in the people; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Western States Sheriffs' Association keep the elected Office of Sheriff, because it guarantees accountability and preserves citizen input in local decision-making, and ensures that sheriffs are accountable to the electorate. Sheriff's elected status creates a direct and continuing linkage with the people. This prevents the "bureaucratization" of the office and promotes a positive image of government.

**ADOPTED** at the Western States Sheriffs' Association Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

ATTEST:

  
Paul B. McGrath  
Secretary

  
Hank Ruland  
President

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