

Hayes, Kathy

From: Caroline Griffith <griffithcarolinec@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 7:40 AM
To: COB; Bass, Virginia; Bohn, Rex; Wilson, Mike; Madrone, Steve; Bushnell, Michelle
Subject: Public Comment on Agenda Item H: Matters Initiated by Board Members – SB 271 /County Sheriffs: Eligibility Requirements

Good morning Supervisors,

I am writing to ask you to NOT send the proposed letter in opposition to SB 271. The argument that opening up the eligibility requirements to run for sheriff would affect the health and safety of the community is unfounded. Until 1988, when the current law was put into effect, the only requirement to run for Sheriff was that you be a registered voter in the district you are running for. What that meant was it was possible for people who worked in other realms of the criminal justice system to run for this office, people like public defenders or prisoners' rights attorneys, people who may approach the office of Sheriff from a different lens and seek to fight crime from a different angle. The current way isn't working; despite the heavy-handed militarized mode of policing we still have high rates of crime. It's time to shift the way we are approaching policing and SB 271 will give us the opportunity to elect Sheriffs who will approach the job with creativity and with a focus on achieving justice and fighting the root causes of crime, not just locking people up.

I strongly urge the Board to reconsider sending this letter.

Thank you,

Caroline Griffith

Sharp, Ryan

From: Karpani Burns <blisshiker@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 3:52 PM
To: COB
Subject: Agenda Item H: Matters Initiated by Board Members – SB 271 /County Sheriffs: Eligibility Requirements

Dear Board Members,

That this Board opposes SB 271 affirms its deliberate indifference and disrespect for the people. To declare that support for SB 271 will jeopardize public safety, is misguided speculation at best. What safety? Eureka is ranked 9th of the 10 most dangerous cities in California, according to COVE. Already in 2021 Humboldt has logged in over 70 crimes overall, including 4 murders and 14 combined assaults and attempted murders. Police don't keep us safe, as we know from friends in our Black, Brown, Indigenous, LGBTQ and poor communities. The issue here is not one of safety. The issue is racism, classism and power.

The present process for the elected position of sheriff in California is closed to the broad expanse of qualified talent available to better serve the people. The process exists not to protect the people, but to sustain the elite power structure and status quo, running counter to the changes necessary for healthy, safe communities. We reject business as usual. We demand creativity, care, humanity, justice and equity on the terms of the people. We accept that each step will be imperfect. But it will be a step. To have our elected representatives dig in and resist the inevitable, like petulant children having their lollipops taken away, is again revealing, and inspiring to continue the fight for people over power.

I strongly urge the Board to reconsider its misleading Opposition Letter to Senator Mike McGuire, and its opposition to SB 271 and to the people's call for change.

Karpani Burns
Humboldt County resident

living in humbleness and gratitude on stolen unceded Ancestral lands of the Wiyot, Yurok, Karuk, Hupa, Nongati, Lassik, Wailaki and Tolowa people

Sharp, Ryan

From: Carrie Peyton Dahlberg <cpeytondahlberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Bass, Virginia; Madrone, Steve; Wilson, Mike; Bushnell, Michelle; Bohn, Rex; COB
Subject: SB 271 Item H

Dear Humboldt County Supervisors:

I'm writing to request that you delay Item H so that you can consider taking the opposite position on SB 271, which would affect the qualifications for running for the office of county sheriff.

All over California, people without law enforcement training already successfully oversee large and well organized police departments. I'm referring to city managers, who oversee and sometimes hire and fire police chiefs. This arrangement recognizes that one doesn't have to be a law officer to know how to manage law enforcement, and in fact an outside perspective can provide useful input.

In California, the public elects our county sheriffs, and SB 271 does not change that. All it does is allow voters to choose from a potentially broader field of candidates. Perhaps voters would prefer a candidate who has an extensive background in public health, and so has the knowledge base to understand public safety on life or death issues. Perhaps voters would prefer a candidate with a public administration degree, who could find the most efficient ways to use taxpayer funds for law enforcement. Perhaps voters would be most impressed by someone with a law degree who could be pro-active about civil liberties, or someone with a social work or psychology degree who could be better equipped to set and enforce policies for de-escalating mental health and domestic disturbance issues. None of these people would need to work in a vacuum; just as city managers confer with police chiefs, elected sheriffs with expertise outside law enforcement could confer with undersheriffs to make the best use of the force they are elected to manage, on behalf of the voters. SB 271 increases voter empowerment. It increases public choice on how our law enforcement should be managed. The idea that it would, on the face of, diminish public safety is absurd. A bad sheriff will diminish public safety, no matter his or her training. A good sheriff will improve public safety. Let's trust democracy and allow the voters make informed choices about how they want to be policed.

I strongly encourage you to endorse SB 271, if you are so inclined today, or else to delay this item so that you can do your own research into the potential value and usefulness of this bill.

Thank you,
Carrie Peyton-Dahlberg, Trinidad

Sharp, Ryan

From: Eleanor Begley <robin234bird@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 5:42 AM
To: COB
Subject: SB 247

Hello, my name is Eli Begley. I'm a resident of Eureka, zip code 95501. I read an article recently that you were considering writing a letter in opposition to SB 247, which would expand sheriff candidacy to anyone over the age of 18. Don't do that. The article makes you seem afraid that anyone just out of high school will run and win, when actually it allows non law-enforcement professionals to run. I would love my county sheriff to have an actual law degree, or a medical background, or a social worker background. I support SB 247 because I never hear about the sheriff doing actual good things for my county and I'm sick of it. Maybe a sheriff who isn't in police department pockets will remove the blights without hesitation, like those bad cops with the text scandal or the ones who purposely mucked up the Josiah case.

I want more variety in my sheriff's backgrounds because what we have isn't good enough. Support SB 247.