

Shoshone County Sheriff

	Shawn Wehr
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	My name is Shawn Wehr, and I am running for Sheriff of Shoshone County. I am currently serving as Sheriff and am seeking to continue the work we have begun. When the Sheriff's Office went through a period of instability, I believed my experience, leadership background, and training could help provide the direction the office needed. I want to build a professional, accountable Sheriff's Office that our community can trust and our personnel can be proud to serve. I believe strongly in constitutional government, fiscal responsibility, public safety, and treating people fairly and with respect.
2. Define your role as Sheriff.	As Sheriff, my role is first and foremost to uphold and defend the Constitution and faithfully carry out the duties entrusted to the office under Idaho law. That includes protecting the rights of the people we serve, enforcing the law fairly, maintaining public safety, and ensuring due process. The Sheriff is also responsible for leading the Sheriff's Office and setting the standard for professionalism, integrity, accountability, and service. I believe the Sheriff must be accessible to the community, responsible with taxpayer dollars, and willing to stand firm when constitutional rights are at stake.
3. The 10th amendment states: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people. What does this mean to you?	The Tenth Amendment is a fundamental safeguard against an overly powerful federal government. Our Constitution created a federal government with specific, limited powers. Powers not given to the federal government are reserved to the states or to the people. To me, that principle is an important part of our system of checks and balances and reinforces the sovereignty of the states. As Sheriff, my first responsibility is to the people I serve and to uphold and defend the Constitution and their constitutional rights. I also have a duty to faithfully enforce the laws of the State of Idaho and to work with our local, state, and federal partners while remaining true to those constitutional principles.
4. What do you see as the top issues facing the Sheriff's Office? What are your proposed solutions?	The top issues facing the Sheriff's Office are recruitment, jail certification, identifying additional funding sources, and updating our contracts, policies, and procedures. Recruitment continues to be a priority. We are processing new hires and steadily increasing our staffing levels. This is also directly tied to jail certification. We have addressed the other requirements and are now primarily working to add the personnel needed to complete the certification process. We are also pursuing grants and other funding opportunities so we can improve our capabilities without continually asking more of our taxpayers. At the same time, we are reviewing and updating contracts, as well as policies, and procedures that had not been reviewed for some time. We are working through those to ensure they are current, effective, and meet the needs of the Sheriff's Office and the community. We have made significant progress in each of these areas and will continue building on that progress.
5. What in your opinion should the State of Idaho's policy be regarding the prosecution of Fentanyl dealers?	I support Idaho's current approach to fentanyl and believe the state has strong laws in place to hold those who traffic and distribute it accountable. Fentanyl is an extremely dangerous drug, and I believe those who knowingly bring it into our communities should face serious consequences.

	As Sheriff, I take that threat seriously. If fentanyl traffickers are operating in Shoshone County, we will aggressively pursue them, build strong cases, and work with our local, state, and federal partners to hold them accountable under the law.
6. If a federal, state, local government entity, and/or the United Nations were to implement a policy of door-to-door gun confiscation in your jurisdiction, what would you do?	I strongly support the Second Amendment and the right of law-abiding people to keep and bear arms. I would not participate in, assist with, or use any Sheriff's Office resources or personnel to carry out an unconstitutional door-to-door confiscation of firearms. It would not happen with the cooperation of the Shoshone County Sheriff's Office under my leadership. My oath is to the Constitution and to protecting the constitutional rights of the people I serve. Regardless of whether such a directive came from the federal government, state government, local government, or any outside organization, including the United Nations, my position would not change. I would use every lawful authority available to me as Sheriff to oppose an unconstitutional confiscation and protect the rights of the people of Shoshone County.
7. In your opinion, if elected, who do you see yourself accountable to and why?	As Sheriff, I am accountable to the people of Shoshone County who have entrusted me with this office. My oath requires me to uphold and defend the Constitution, protect the rights of the people I serve, and faithfully carry out the responsibilities of Sheriff. Being an elected Sheriff carries a tremendous amount of responsibility. The people have the right to expect honesty, transparency, fiscal responsibility, and fair and constitutional enforcement of the law. Ultimately, they have the ability to hold me accountable through the electoral process, and I would never take that responsibility or their trust for granted.
8. Would your agency cooperate with legal requests made by Immigration and Customs Enforcement?	Yes. The Shoshone County Sheriff's Office will cooperate with lawful requests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement, just as we cooperate with other law enforcement agencies. I believe in enforcing the law and in agencies working together when they have the legal authority to do so. At the same time, any enforcement action taken by the Sheriff's Office must respect due process and the constitutional rights of the individuals involved.
9. Do you believe that North Idaho should implement a traffic control center? Why or why not?	If by a traffic control center you are referring to a system that uses cameras or similar technology to routinely track the movement of vehicles and individuals, I would not support it. I understand the value this type of technology can have in investigating and solving crimes. However, I also believe people have a basic right to privacy and freedom of movement without the government routinely tracking where they go. Public safety is important, but it must be balanced with protecting the individual rights and freedoms of the people we serve.
10. What is your opinion of Automated License Plate Readers? Do you believe they should be implemented in your county?	I do not support implementing Automated License Plate Readers throughout Shoshone County. I understand their value as an investigative tool and recognize that they can assist law enforcement in identifying vehicles associated with criminal activity. However, I have concerns about the privacy implications of routinely collecting and storing information about the movements of people who are not suspected of committing a crime. People should have a reasonable expectation that they can travel throughout their community without the government routinely documenting their movements. For me, the potential investigative benefit does not outweigh those concerns.

11. What does religious freedom mean to you?	Religious freedom is a fundamental right protected by our Constitution. People should be free to practice their faith, express their beliefs, or choose not to practice a religion without government interference or fear of being treated differently because of those beliefs. To me, religious freedom means the government does not dictate what a person must believe, nor should it prevent someone from living according to their faith as long as they are acting within the law. As Sheriff, I have a responsibility to protect that freedom equally for everyone in our community.
12. When do you believe life begins and how will that belief affect your role as Sheriff?	I believe life begins at conception and that every human life has value. As Sheriff, my responsibility is to uphold the Constitution and enforce the laws of the State of Idaho. My personal beliefs help shape my values and how I approach leadership, but I also understand the responsibility that comes with holding public office. I will enforce the law fairly, consistently, and with respect for the constitutional rights of everyone I serve.
13. In recent years some groups have advocated for legalizing marijuana in our state, do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	I oppose the legalization of marijuana in Idaho. From a law enforcement perspective, I do not believe expanding access to recreational drugs benefits our communities or public safety. Idaho has chosen to maintain strong drug laws, and I support that position. As Sheriff, my responsibility is to enforce those laws fairly and consistently while focusing our resources on protecting the safety and quality of life of the people we serve.
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I bring more than 34 years of combined military and law enforcement experience to the position of Sheriff. I served in the U.S. Army with the 75th Ranger Regiment and later spent nearly 30 years with the Los Angeles Police Department, retiring as a Lieutenant II. During my law enforcement career, I served in a wide range of assignments including patrol, investigations, gangs, counterterrorism, tactical operations, internal affairs, training, and command positions. I was responsible for leading personnel, managing critical incidents, overseeing complex investigations, and developing and implementing programs and operations. That experience provided me with a strong foundation in leadership, accountability, training, and law enforcement operations. Now, as Sheriff, I have the opportunity to apply that experience here in Shoshone County while continuing to learn the unique responsibilities that come with leading a rural Sheriff's Office.