

For the Blue Policing Questionnaire: 2022 Mid-terms Wisconsin Gubernatorial & Lt. Gubernatorial Candidates

Note: I added the “Riots & Mayhem” question after I had already sent the questionnaire to several of the candidates. In the cases where that question wasn’t on their original questionnaire, I re-sent it separately.

Increasing violence towards police officers

Police officers are increasingly being slaughtered on American streets for the simple act of wearing a uniform and badge. Ambush-style attacks on cops were on the [U.S. Department of Justice’s radar in 2015](#). And in 2021 alone, there was [a 115% increase in these deliberate and calculated acts](#) over the previous year, the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) recently reported. The trend has continued into 2022.

To address the upswing in attacks and ambushes on police officers, the State of Florida passed The [Combatting Violence, Disorder and Looting and Law Enforcement Protection Act](#) in 2020. It makes striking a police officer during a violent or disorderly assembly punishable with a mandatory six-month jail sentence.

Question. If possible, please explain your answers.

1. If elected as Lt. governor, would you be supportive of similar legislation in the state of Wisconsin?

[Additional information about this topic](#)

Police staffing shortages

In one [nationwide survey](#) to determine the prevalence of police staffing shortages, the Police Executive Research Forum found that on average, departments are filling about 93% of their available positions; and an International Association of Chiefs of Police [survey](#) found that 78% of police departments had difficulty recruiting qualified candidates. These numbers are being outpaced by an approximate 45% increase in police retirements and 18% increase in resignations. The fallout from this includes longer wait times for service, less time for proactive & community policing, and officer burnout.

Question. If possible, please explain your answer.

1. If elected, what initiatives would you take to increase officer application pools and retention?

[Additional information about this topic](#)

Riots & mayhem

The riots during the summer of 2020 resulted in ambushes on police officers, burned cities, destroyed cities, and injured civilians. It goes without saying that the events of January 6 were also unacceptable, and thus are being prosecuted.

Question:

Do you disavow this, and if it were to happen again, what would be your response?

Paula Fitzsimmons

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