

Response from Rebecca Kleefisch (R), Candidate for Wisconsin Governor

(Candidate's response is in bolded red.)

Hi Alex,

Thanks so much for offering to complete this questionnaire. If you could please ask Rebecca to return the answers by the end of June or sooner, that would be fantastic. Please let me know if you need additional time or have additional questions.

For the Blue Policing Questionnaire

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 answer.

1. If elected, would you sign similar legislation into law 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](#)

Paula,

I apologize for the delay here. Our email exchange came just before the Republican Party of Wisconsin State Convention and I am just getting caught up on a few items. I spoke to Rebecca about your questions. Here are her answers:

REBECCA KLEEFISCH

Question 1 answer:

Yes. When I am governor, we will join states in passing legislation like Florida's that protects our communities and those that serve them.

We need to do everything to stop attacks against police officers. I've already committed to signing a riot bill that our current governor in Wisconsin has vetoed (SB 296). Tony Evers shamefully vetoed bills that imposed mandatory sentences for assault on correctional officers (AB 824), and bills that would have increased penalties for retail theft (AB 827 and AB 829). I will sign these.

My support for backing the badge is why I am law enforcement's pick for Wisconsin Governor. A majority of Wisconsin Sheriffs, the Wisconsin Fraternal Order of Police, the Milwaukee Police Association, and the Kenosha Professional Police Association Board all endorse my campaign. Wisconsin police officers have my back because they know I will have theirs.

Question 2 answer:

When I am governor, I will put at least 1,000 more cops on the street so we can take back control from the criminals who are terrorizing our communities.

The "tone at the top" from our Governor's office will be one of respect and appreciation for law enforcement. That massive change alone brings a shift in the environment police work in. To put words into action, I will also sign bail and sentencing reform so police are not constantly dealing with a revolving door of justice thrust upon them by bad DA's and judges. These two huge shifts will lead to better retention.

Additionally, I will ban vaccine mandates and immediately begin recruiting frustrated current and ex-cops from states where woke policies have caused them to reconsider law enforcement. Wisconsin will also charter dual enrollment academies for police, fire and emergency services, building a faster, younger pipeline into the profession. We also must create hiring bonuses and other recruitment and retention incentives to grow the number of law enforcement. We should pay special attention to those with military and law enforcement backgrounds and incentivize them to pick Wisconsin.

Wisconsin should immediately use federal funds available and our budget surplus to fund these needs.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Alex