

# Response from Kyle Yudes (R), Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives

(Candidate's response is in bolded red.)

Thanks for offering to complete this questionnaire. If you could 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 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 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?

- 1. Absolutely! When our officers are acting within the confines of their constitutional duties, I will back and support them 1 million percent! This is legislation that needs to sweep the country! We need to protect those who are in harms way. I have a close friend who is an officer in the 3rd precinct in Minneapolis, MN. When the building was taken over and burned, in my opinion, when the criminals were given the green light to do as they please. We must put strict measures in place and stiff penalties for anyone who attacks and officer**
- 1. I believe we need to start recruiting officers and deputies in high school. I think the trades should include some type of class or program to do so. I would like to see Juniors and Seniors in high school go through some type of practical training and volunteer work with local police and sheriff departments. The more positive light that is placed on this honorable profession, the better.**
- 2. Retention falls on a few areas. Hours worked, and mental and family support. As we increase the talent pool and are able to have the correct amount of officers hired and working, the hours reduce. So it will be extremely important to recruit. Beyond that, support is needed. Currently there are several tools available, but a lot of red tape is involved and officers do not always feel they have a safe place to obtain the support they need. While the programs are a great tool, we need to do more for these officers. One way to offer more has been through the work I have been doing over the past two years. I work with Wrestling 4 Life Life Coins. Simply put it is a support and suicide helpline. A lifeline in each officers pocket. A coin with a special number that goes to a specialized call center manned by current and retired law enforcement, corrections officers, and other first responders. The calls are encrypted, no names or numbers are taken down. They can ask for someone who does the same profession they do. If you are a police chief, you ask for another chief and you are connected. People who have been in their shoes, faced what they may be facing and understand. Sometimes officers just need to talk, other times they need life saving measures. We need to get more services like this one in the hands of officers and their families. I believe this is a big part of retention.**

- 1. I have friends who are officers. I come from a family of officers. Anytime someone ambushes an officer, it is personal to me. I have seen the damage done from the riots and how it affects the officers I know. We must have law and order. There must be accountability! I will always protect the right to assemble. The second it becomes anything but peaceful it must be stopped. I would take swift action to get the reinforcement needed to those officers and to give the green light to shut down the criminal activity and protect the people as well as property. We get national guard, state patrol, sheriff department, all necessary resources to back up our officers and stop the threat. The moment violence or crime is committed by anyone in the crowd, it is no longer acceptable. Disburse the crowd and have a strong and respectful presence.**