

Response from Andre Jacque (R), Candidate for Wisconsin State Senate

(Candidate's response is in highlights.)

Hello Paula-

Please see my answers highlighted below. Sorry for the delay in getting back to you.

Best Regards,

Andre

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.

Questions. If possible, please explain your answers.

1. If elected as senator, would you be willing to sponsor or co-sponsor similar legislation in the state of Wisconsin?
2. If elected, would you sign this type of legislation if it came up for a vote?

[Additional information about this topic](#)

I am proud to have been twice recognized as Legislator of the Year by the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, as well as Legislator of the Year by the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association and the Wisconsin District Attorneys Association. Yes, I have drafted, co-sponsored and voted for a number of bills to significantly increase penalties for attacks on law enforcement, including during riots, throughout my time in the legislature, and I will continue to do so if re-elected.

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?

We need to listen to our law enforcement officers and take action to let them know we have their backs. I am proud to have authored the state law to extend strong coverage for Post Traumatic Stress Injuries to law enforcement and other first responders under Wisconsin's Workers Compensation program. I also authored the law enacted in 2020 to expand Wisconsin's youth apprenticeship program to all career clusters to now include law enforcement and allow students with those interests additional opportunities and vocational advantages. This session, I was the lead Senate author of legislation I introduced with Rep. Jesse James to provide ARPA dollars for police academies within our technical college system to offer additional part-time instructional opportunities and flexibilities for non-traditional students. While Gov. Evers vetoed that legislation, raising the issue forced him to ultimately implement the same initiative with available ARPA funds.