

# Clergy Endorsement for Richland County Sheriff 2024 Primary Election

The Richland County Primary Election will occur Tuesday, March 19th, 2024, with candidates: Steve Sheldon, Matthew Mayer, and Donald Zehner vying for the highest law enforcement office in the County. Elected sheriffs are directly accountable to their State Constitution, the Federal Constitution, statutes, and ultimately to the citizens of their county.

Recently after attending a National Sheriff's Association Conference, Butler County Sheriff Richard Jones outlined imminent national security risks, drawing parallels to Israel's security situation. Recounting the October 7<sup>th</sup> massacre on Israelis, where local police were critical in responding to attacks, the Ohio Sheriff underscored the essential role local law enforcement plays.

With the U.S. currently engaging in military action in two countries, with thousands of undocumented people from one hundred-sixty different countries entering our nation monthly thru an unsecure border, more red flags for potential terrorist activity exist today than there were before the September 11th attacks. Local stability and security are of vital importance.

The Bible says Isaiah 62, "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence."

**Based on a Biblical worldview, our strong conviction as forty-five (45) lead clergymen, is Sheriff Steve Sheldon will best serve as the next Richland County Sheriff for the upcoming March 19, 2024 Primary Election to advance the cause of faith, family, and freedom.**

Sheriff Steve Sheldon has over forty-years' experience in law enforcement and has served as Richland County Sheriff for five terms, beginning in 2005. Mr. Sheldon has been a strong advocate for the Second Amendment which helps protect First Amendment freedoms and was one of the leading voices in opposing the legalization of marijuana. Besides regularly attending corporate prayer gatherings in the community, Mr. Sheldon maintains a chaplain program in the Sheriff's Department. Under his Administration, Sheriff Sheldon also implemented a faith-based Project Starfish drug rehab program and affixed National Motto "In GOD we trust" placards on all new deputy squad vehicles.

While times are perilous, strong leadership and bold direction are needed to protect our local community. Nehemiah 4:14 says "Be not ye afraid of them: remember the LORD, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses."

Furthermore, based on merit we support the candidacy of Steve Sheldon and believe he will 'not let his guard down.' As forty-five (45) leading clergymen, we encourage Ohioans to show up at their polling places in person on Tuesday, March 19th, 2024 and vote for Steve Sheldon as Richland County Sheriff.

**The following forty-five (45) lead clergy formally announce their support for the re-election of Steve Sheldon as the next Richland County Sheriff in the 2024 Primary Election:**

Pastor George Lewis, Shelby  
Pastor Mark Wireman, Shiloh  
Pastor Les Farley, Lexington  
Pastor Chad Hayes, Mansfield  
Pastor Russell Stanford, Mansfield  
Pastor Doug Tackett, Shelby  
Pastor Randy Raynes, Mansfield  
Pastor Clarence Sanderfer, Mansfield  
Pastor Denny Nezrick, Lexington  
Pastor Brad Gentile, Shelby  
Pastor Emeritus Steve Schag, Shelby  
Pastor Art Kennard, Shelby  
Pastor Chad Berry, Lexington  
Pastor Bobby Edwards, Mansfield  
Reverend El Akuchie, Mansfield  
Pastor Kevin Evans, Ganges  
Bishop Anthony Cooper, Shelby  
Deacon Derrell Hall, Mansfield  
Pastor Jake Keister, Mansfield  
Pastor Clyde Kerby, Mansfield  
Pastor Ferlie Yates, Mansfield  
Pastor Jimmy Barnes, Mansfield  
Bishop Sylvester Ginn, Ontario

Pastor Robert O'Brian, Mansfield  
Pastor Les Vnasdale, Ontario  
Pastor Russ Smith, Shiloh  
Pastor Rick Lewis, Shelby  
Pastor Dink Porter, Mansfield  
Pastor Eric Byrom, Mansfield  
Pastor Rick Sutter, Shelby  
Pastor Hank Webb, Shelby  
Pastor Brian Phillips, Shelby  
Pastor Matthew Pond, Shelby  
Pastor Joe Smith, Ontario  
Pastor Rich Hurles, Plymouth  
Pastor James Marshall, Ganges  
Pastor Dallas Waggle, Lucas  
Pastor Larry Hill, Mansfield  
Pastor LaMont Lindsay, Mansfield  
Pastor Rick Wiseman, Mansfield  
Pastor David Parsons, Mansfield  
Pastor John Campos, Mansfield  
Rabbi William Hallbrook, Ontario  
Pastor Taylor Howard, Mansfield  
Pastor Floyd Allen, Mansfield