



SPEAK

In their own words: Union County

What are the top three qualities or characteristics that make you the right person to be Union County sheriff?

Rasmussen

Positive attitude: I believe looking at each challenge in life through a positive lens and glass-half-full attitude is the best approach. As your sheriff, I bring this philosophy with me to the office in my approach to growing and improving the office and deputies that serve you.

Fairness: I believe as sheriff this may be my best attribute because it drives who I am. My employees know the bar is set high, but it is set with equality and fairness in how my administration handles matters internally as well as with the public. The law in my office is administered with fairness and common sense.

Good listener: I pride myself in listening to my staff and constituents to always make the best decisions to advance the office, and put the citizens in a position to be best protected by quality deputies and sound policies.

Miller

Integrity, transparency and hard work. Many good people who I have worked with during my 20-plus-year career in law enforcement can attest to my having those qualities. Many have recently expressed this publicly. I think those three characteristics are who I am as a person and who I have been as a police officer. You should not be a police officer without integrity. We are held to a higher standard and are expected and sworn to always keep our integrity. Cops without integrity? That simply doesn't work. Being transparent is a quality any police officer or agency should strive for. We must have the courage to admit when we have dropped the ball and move on. Having a good work ethic is paramount. One cannot serve well if you don't put out maximum effort. Our citizens expect and deserve this. Besides, for me, old habits are hard to break.

Bowen

I am a man of integrity. I firmly believe that doing the right thing even when no one is watching is extremely important. Being a role model to the younger generation in this community is something I take tremendous pride in, and integrity is paramount.

Effective communication skills. Having good communication skills starts with being approachable and being able to effectively listen to someone. I often refer to it as "listening to hear." You have to be able to set aside your predetermined assumptions, have an open mind and be willing to hear other opinions and ideas from everyone in order to succeed.

Transparency is crucial. Lack of transparency creates doubt and mistrust. I believe I am an open book and I will continue in that direction. Transparency leads to trust and faith, not only within the department but throughout the community.

Rollins

I served our country for 21 years in the United States military. I want to serve Union County. I will do everything in my power as a sheriff to ensure the rights of the citizens in Union County are not infringed upon. I will ensure these rights are not taken away.

I lead by example and have done this all my life. I never forgot where I came from, the small-town country boy who grew up in the Imbler/Summerville area with battle-tested leadership.

I am retired and am not doing this for money or to prove something. I have a vast amount of experience and knowledge to offer, pertinent to the role of sheriff, and want to share this with our great valley for a new change and unique perspective. I have two young kids and care about all our children. I'm confident I can bring the positive change needed.



"I stand by my record and my integrity of always doing the right thing for citizens and my office. I welcome any scrutiny from the citizens or outside agencies into my office or inner workings. The truth will always prevail, and I have nothing to hide."

— **Boyd Rasmussen**



"More boots on the ground, focusing on keeping the peace, ensuring public safety while fostering great relationships/interaction with the citizenry will be an improvement I will insist on. This equates to better service, faster response times, availability and visibility."

— **Bill Miller**

What is the most pressing issue in the race that you want people to know more about and why?

Rollins

The citizens of Union County are not being served in the capacity that is needed by the taxpayers. We need to build trust and confidence back in the people we are sworn to serve and protect. A camaraderie between all the first responders needs to be reestablished. It's very important to use every resource available in order to complete the mission of serving the public. When you are in a job that puts your life on the line daily, it is very important to have this trust between all first responders. There is a war against our rights and our Constitution. I swore an oath to uphold the Constitution and I will do everything in my power as sheriff to ensure your rights are protected. The people need someone to listen to them, to ensure their livelihood and interests are being protected.

Rasmussen

When you have multiple candidates running for the same position, it's important to thoroughly examine the candidates. How one has lived their life is a good predictor of how they will approach the position. How have they personally managed their finances, for example, is important when one considers the sheriff is responsible for managing a \$4 million-plus budget. How candidates have conducted, managed and prioritized goals in their personal lives reflect how they would manage the sheriff's office.

When voting ask yourself:

- 1) Is the sheriff's office functioning well?
- 2) Are deputies performing for the citizens?
- 3) Do citizens feel they are living in safe communities?

As I continue to monitor our performance year in and year out, I find that citizens are pleased with the increased professionalism and work product of the sheriff's office.

Miller

If elected, the most pressing issue I want to address is stabilizing the office.

It is obvious there are issues. Why would we have the deputies unanimously endorse the current sheriff, and a few months later they are supporting a current deputy? Why have so many trusted and respected leaders left on their own accord? As citizens you should examine this. There should not be internal struggles. This can affect our work product and degrade service to you. We should all be on the same page. I know I have the experience and skill to make a cohesive team. It takes leadership from the front. Setting examples every day. We need change and broad experience to get back on track. I am the man to make this happen. A focused, stable department with a consistent leader, leading from the front, will result in a better work product for you, the citizen.

Bowen

Drugs and addiction within our community. This is the major root of the crime in our area. I feel by developing better relationships with our citizens, partnering law enforcement agencies, mental health professionals, Department of Human Services and all first responders we can better combat this epidemic by creating programs to turn it around. Know that I can, and I will improve those relationships as sheriff.

Miller

Focusing on justice for vulnerable victims has always been a passion for me. One high point in my career, as a new detective, was sending a man to jail for victimizing children. Years later I supervised criminal investigations. This same man was again accused of the same type of behavior. With hard work, and my guiding hand, a fairly new deputy was tasked with this very important case. I watched from the 1,000-yard view and gave advice and direction to this new deputy. I made sure the deputy was not missing anything and gathered all the evidence we could find. In the end, the man was sentenced to a presumptive life sentence for repeated convictions. It made me proud to pass on my skills to the new deputy. It made him a better cop. Most important, justice was done. Good leaders teach and pass on their knowledge. That is a priority.

Rollins

I have worked all over the world including embassy duty, which allowed me to collaborate with every entity of law enforcement available and in unique situations. I managed budgets, trained Marines and local law enforcement, ensured the safety of our American citizens, worked side-by-side with state department and foreign agencies and hosted local community outreach events.

I have training in all areas of law enforcement and more. I know how to work with every facet of government and persons in order to properly evaluate situational awareness ensuring the best, safest and most professional outcome. I value joint efforts between agencies.

As a criminal investigator, I joined forces with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and together we were able to shut down a chop-shop that was stealing motorcycles and ATVs from

the military base and surrounding towns. When you have the right players working together, much can be accomplished.

Bowen

Taking on the school resource officer position. I went into the La Grande School District during a time in our nation when law enforcement was facing some real struggles. People had lost faith in our ability to keep them safe and our relationships were struggling. I went in with the mentality of fixing that problem starting with our youth. I knew I had to be more than just a stern hand or a consequence. I have spent the last few years teaching our youth to run toward me not away from me. Doing so I have brought back trust and approachability to my profession, humanizing the badge. I believe this same approach can be applied to the role of sheriff on a bigger scale throughout all of our communities.

Rasmussen

As sheriff, I could give many examples, but I think a strong example is in protecting our citizens' rights. We recently had a case where we were ready to serve on a citizen and truly thought we had "our guy." We then noticed a subtle piece of evidence that pointed away from this individual. We were advised we were legally OK to serve the warrant. Some wanted to serve the warrant. I did not.

I stated the reasons it was wrong and inappropriate to move forward with the warrant and all agreed. If the evidence points away from a citizen, we should never upend his or her life because we legally can. I will always err on the side of protecting all citizens in my county and protecting their constitutional rights, which as Americans we all hold dear, especially the 1st and 2nd Amendments.