WHAT DOES THE SHERIFF DO?

Sheriffs are the primary law enforcement agency in many rural and suburban communities.

SHERIFFS WIELD A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF UNCHECKED POWER* TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT TOPICS LIKE...

(*Sheriffs are elected to 4-year terms by voters like you, and do not have direct oversight by the state.

1. ARRESTS
Determine what offenses people can be arrested for, how severe certain penalties are, and who and how many people go to jail.*

- Sheriffs can choose to send youth and other low-risk offenders to diversion programs that can often avoid a permanent criminal record.

2. IMMIGRATIONS
Have wide discretion over whether and how to cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

- Ex: 287(g) is a voluntary agreement with ICE that authorizes local deputies to act as immigration agents. This has become a major funnel into the nation’s deportation infrastructure.

3. EVICTIONS
Serve eviction notices, enforce eviction orders — including physical removal of tenants and their belongings — and oversee foreclosure auctions once people are evicted from their homes.

4. HEALTH & SAFETY IN JAILS*
Have control over how detainees with physical and mental health conditions receive care, including access to medication.

*JAIL IS DIFFERENT THAN PRISON.
Jails are temporary holding facilities for people awaiting trial or sentencing or those newly arrested — some of whom may not have been convicted or charged with a crime.

5. SCHOOL SAFETY
Train, place, and oversee the School Resource Officer (SRO) program in N.C. public schools.

- Through this partnership with local school systems, SRO programs can lead to increased juvenile arrests, contributing to the school-to-prison-to-deportation pipeline.

Make your voice heard!
Vote and have a say in who will be your county sheriff!

To learn more about local elections visit www.ncaatinaction.org/vote