

Hennepin County Sheriff's State Legislative Agenda 2025



Sheriff Dawanna Witt took office in January 2023 as the 29th Sheriff of Hennepin County. Sheriff Witt supports a broad set of priorities for public safety, accountability and reform in Minnesota this session including:

Officer Recruitment, Retention, and Wellness

- Focus on officer support through pay and pension adequacy, advocate for state-provided health care for all law enforcement officers and their families, training and professional development, and increasing support for 911 Telecommunicators.
- Support access to child-care for first responders and incentives for centers who offer 24/7 care.
- Encourage reauthorization of the Intensive Comprehensive Peace Officer Education to help agencies recruit and enhance opportunities for career advancement.

Technology Advancement, Enhancement, and Transparency

- Invest in cutting edge technology to help monitor heart rates for in-custody individuals with medical issues to provide immediate alerts to any irregularities.
- Ensure key law enforcement tools, like facial recognition software, also protect individual rights and require transparency in policy disclosure.
- Champion public safety aid money that will help counties, tribes, and municipalities address the unique needs of their individual communities.

Compassionate and Effective Community Safety Improvements

- Support the HOPE program, a successful jail programming approach that provides education, workforce training, life skills, and connections to resources to help inmates get back on their feet with the goal of reducing recidivism. Expand existing partnerships at the HOPE HUB with Hennepin County Community Corrections, Office of Workforce Development and Emerge Minnesota.
- Advocate to continue to provide outstanding medical care for inmates and ensure Minnesota requests a Medicaid 1115 Waiver so we can keep continuity of important medical coverage to those in our jail while they are in our custody.
- Continue necessary engagement and education around the Priority Admissions Task Force evaluating the 48 Hour Rule and possible future short and long term recommendations and solutions that protect public safety, improve jail access to appropriate medical services and expand state and local capacity.
- Lead efforts to address the Fentanyl Epidemic, including support for increased VCET Funding statewide to prevent overdoses and deaths.

Focus on Juvenile Interventions and Supports

- Invest in youth programs that are proven to steer kids away from crime and towards productive and safe choices.
- Provide leadership to ensure justice involved youth in Hennepin County have appropriate placement options and critically important services.