

North Carolina No Convicted Felons for Sheriff Amendment (2010)

From Ballotpedia

(Redirected from North Carolina Sheriff Election Amendment (2010))

The **North Carolina Davidson County Sheriff Election Amendment** will appear on the November 2, 2010 ballot in the state of North Carolina as a legislatively-referred constitutional amendment. The proposed constitutional change, also known as Senate Bill 351, would alter the state constitution to prohibit convicted felons from running for sheriff in the state.^[1]

The measure was introduced by Senator Stan Bingham during the week of May 17, 2010, in light of the Davidson County sheriff race where candidate Gerald Hege is a convicted felon. Hege was running for the

position five years after pleading guilty to obstruction of justice charges. His bid for the position failed.^[2]

According to Bingham, "I was actually called by four different sheriffs in four counties who had concerns about this because of the working relationship they had in the past." Hege stated, "It's a great expense to do all of this to stop one man from running for sheriff-to protect your neighbor and friend."

Text of measure

Ballot title

The ballot language that voters will see on their ballot reads:

"[] FOR [] AGAINST

Constitutional amendment providing that no person convicted of a felony may serve as sheriff."^[3]

Summary

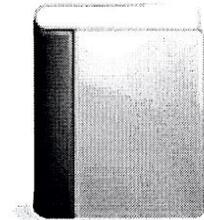
The summary of the measure reads:

An Act to amend the Constitution of North Carolina to provide that no person convicted of a felony is eligible to be elected sheriff.^[3]

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North Carolina Constitution



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Constitutional changes

North Carolina No Convicted Felons for Sheriff Amendment (2010), constitutional changes

If enacted by voters, the measure would change Article VII, Section 2 of the North Carolina Constitution.

Support

Supporters

Alamance County Sheriff Terry Johnson is in support of the measure. According to a press release by the county's sheriff's department, "Sheriff Johnson indicated that he felt it was unacceptable to have felons serving as the head law enforcement official in any county of North Carolina."^[4]

The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association voted on March 17, 2010 to back the measure. According to the group's press release, "The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association does not want something as crucial and fundamental to professional law enforcement as the public trust to be placed in the hands of a known felon, having been found to be such in a court of law."^[5]

Executive vice president of the Sheriffs' Association stated that there were four convicted felons that bid to run for the office this year in the state, and that fact should lead to big support for the measure.^[2]

Opposition

Opponents

According to reports, Gerald Hege stated that the measure being proposed isn't about the issue, but more about politics.^[1]

Media endorsements

See also Endorsements of North Carolina ballot measures, 2010

Support

- The Dispatch, the newspaper for Davidson County, wrote an article in favor of the measure. The publication wrote, "State Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson, has been a driving force behind the effort to bar felons from running for sheriff. He's received support from the North Carolina Sheriffs Association. The initial House vote was 112-0 in favor of the bill. Those two facts should sway any voters who have questions about the wisdom of the amendment."^[6]
- The Winston Salem Journal published an editorial on July 10, 2010, calling for support of the amendment. The publication wrote that there are a number of ways that a felon can win an election, whether by default or other ways: "It is also entirely possible that someone's criminal background could go undetected until it was too late. With it emblazoned in the constitution that such a person cannot be sheriff, the odds of it happening become much smaller. When voters go to the polls in November, they will very likely pass this amendment overwhelmingly. It simply makes too much

sense, and we wonder why it wasn't part of the constitution already."^[7]

Path to the ballot

The measure was approved by the North Carolina Senate on June 23, 2010 by a vote of 46-1. The bill was then sent to the North Carolina House of Representatives for a vote where it was approved unanimously. The last step for the measure to make the ballot is for the House to approve ballot language. Section 4 of Article XIII of the North Carolina Constitution says that a legislatively-referred amendment can go on the ballot if approved by a 60% vote of each house of the North Carolina State Legislature. The measure was then sent to the ballot on July 1, 2010.^[8]^[9]

According to House majority leader Hugh Holliman, he expected the bill to pass through the House quickly and be placed on the ballot this fall.^[10]

See also

- North Carolina 2010 ballot measures
- 2010 ballot measures

Additional reading

- Former Sheriff Gerald Hege Files to Run Again

References

- ↑ 1.0 1.1 *Fox 8*, "Constitutional Change Proposed Over Davidson County Sheriff's Race", March 17, 2010
- ↑ 2.0 2.1 *Winston-Salem Journal*, "Bingham to reintroduce bill: Felons shouldn't be sheriffs, it proposes", May 14, 2010
- ↑ 3.0 3.1 *General Assembly of North Carolina*, "Senate Bill 351", March 2, 2009
- ↑ *The Times News*, "Johnson supports bill that would keep felons from serving as sheriffs", March 18, 2010
- ↑ *The Dispatch*, "N.C. Sheriffs' Association backs bill preventing felons from holding office", March 18, 2010
- ↑ *The Dispatch*, "Voters should end chance of felon sheriffs", July 1, 2010
- ↑ *Winston-Salem Journal*, "No felons need apply", July 10, 2010
- ↑ *Rocky Mount Telegram*, "N.C. Senate OKs constitutional proposal on sheriffs", June 23, 2010
- ↑ *Winston-Salem Journal*, "Voters will get chance to bar felons from running for sheriff", July 1, 2010
- ↑ *WXII12.com*, "Bill To Bar Felons As Sheriffs Advances", June 25, 2010

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"[http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/North_Carolina_No_Convicted_Felons_for_Sheriff_Amendment_\(2010\)](http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/North_Carolina_No_Convicted_Felons_for_Sheriff_Amendment_(2010))"

Categories: North Carolina 2010 ballot measures | Elections and campaigns, North Carolina | Certified, elections and campaigns, 2010 | Referred amendment certified for the 2010 ballot | Certified for the 2010 ballot

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<http://forum.the-dispatch.com/>

NC Sheriffs Turn Up Heat To Change Convicted Felon Law

<http://forum.the-dispatch.com/viewtopic.php?f=9&t=104>

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NC Sheriffs Turn Up Heat To Change Convicted Felon Law

by **joniy66**

Posted: **Wed Mar 17, 2010 10:17 pm**

digtriad.com/Devetta Blount/Created 3/17/2010 5:36 42 PM

North Carolina-Do you know that a convicted felon can be elected and can serve as a county sheriff, according to our State Constitution? The North Carolina Sheriff's Association is strongly opposed to any convicted felon being a sheriff, the head law enforcement official in each county. The North Carolina Sheriff's Association does not want something as crucial and fundamental to professional law enforcement as the public trust to be placed in the hands of a known felon, having been found to be such in a court of law.

This week, the North Carolina Sheriff's Association reaffirmed its support for Senate Bill 351, No Felon as Sheriff, a legislative bill currently pending in the North Carolina General Assembly that is eligible for consideration in the legislative session that convenes on May 12th. The Association first supported this legislation in early 2009, but the legislation was not enacted into law. Last year's decision by the Association to support Senate Bill 351 was reaffirmed in a unanimous vote by those sheriffs in attendance at the Association's annual Spring Meeting.

If enacted into law by the General Assembly, Senate Bill 351 would place on the ballot in November 2010, a constitutional amendment to be voted upon by the people of North Carolina that would prohibit a convicted felon from serving as sheriff in our state. Under current law, a convicted felon who has fully completed the sentence imposed by the court automatically has their "rights restored" by operation of law, and is then eligible to vote and to hold public office in North Carolina, including among others, the Office of Sheriff.

Sheriff James Knight of Edgecombe County, president of the Association said: "The sheriffs of North Carolina vigorously support this legislation and adamantly believe that a convicted felon should not be allowed to run for or be elected or appointed as sheriff in our great state. The standards for our deputy sheriffs established by the sheriffs and other members of the North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission prohibit a convicted felon from being certified as a deputy sheriff. The constitutional amendment sought by Senate Bill 351 will apply this same standard to the men and women who serve in the constitutional Office of Sheriff."

"It is the position of the sheriffs of North Carolina that a convicted felon should be barred from holding any elective office in our state, but the Association is continuing to focus its efforts on getting this restriction applied to the Office of Sheriff," said Sheriff Jerry Monette of Craven County, chairman of the Association's Executive Committee. Sheriff Monette continued: "during the upcoming 2010 session of the North Carolina General Assembly that

begins in May, we will be working with our friends in the legislature on both sides of the aisle to get this important legislation enacted so the voters can help us get this constitutional amendment adopted on Election Day this November."

The North Carolina Sheriff's Association is the professional organization of our state's sheriffs and includes as members all of the 100 sheriffs in North Carolina. In the discussion of this issue by the sheriffs, they noted that it is regrettable that convicted felons have filed to run for election to the Office of Sheriff this year, but the sheriffs have confidence that the public will ensure that no convicted felon is elected as sheriff.

Sheriff Sam Page of Rockingham County, first vice president of the Association, noted: "We respect and fully support the constitutional right of the citizens of each of North Carolina's 100 counties to make the decision at the ballot box about who will serve their county as sheriff. However, we are united in our belief that the North Carolina Constitution should be amended to prohibit a convicted felon from serving as an elected or appointed sheriff. As North Carolina's sheriffs, we want our fellow citizens to know that many hardships will result if a convicted felon is allowed to serve as the chief law enforcement officer in the county responsible for protecting and serving you and other citizens in your county."

Federal law prohibits a convicted from from possessing a firearm. Integrity, professionalism and the confidence of the public in our criminal justice system requires that convicted felons not be eligible to dserve as sheriff.

Today - across our state and throughout the nation - sheriffs continue to exercise vitally important responsibilities. In the State of North Carolina, sheriffs are constitutional officers elected by the people of their counties. On call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the responsibilities of their Office include:

- *Patrolling the counties and enforcing the law
- *Maintaining and operating jails
- *Serving civil process papers, essential to all legal actions
- *Providing security for North Carolina's courtrooms
- *Serving as the public's elected representatives for law enforcement and public safety matters
- *Maintaining custody of evidence, including firearms, in criminal court cases

The Office of Sheriff is the oldest and most respected elected office in America, having been brought to this country by the colonists from England. The founding fathers of our nation made it an elected office because they were determined that the sheriff would be directly responsible and accountable to the people. North Carolina's sheriffs take pride in their office and they take seriously their duties and responsibilities to the people of North Carolina.

From its state headquarters in Raleigh, the North Carolina Sheriff's Association has been proudly serving the sheriffs and citizens of North Carolina since 1922.

Re: NC Sheriffs Turn Up Heat To Change Convicted Felon Law

by **nogunhege**

Posted: **Wed Mar 17, 2010 10:26 pm**

Hear, Hear... Lets vote on it.

Re: NC Sheriffs Turn Up Heat To Change Convicted Felon Law

by **joniy66**

Posted: **Wed Mar 17, 2010 10:48 pm**

nogunhege wrote:

Hear, Hear... Lets vote on it.

Nothing takes the place of putting pressure on the elected officials who can truly make a difference.

The air smells better already! 😊😊😊😊

Re: NC Sheriffs Turn Up Heat To Change Convicted Felon Law

by **knotAfelon2010**

Posted: **Thu Mar 18, 2010 5:30 am**

I CUNCURRR GO N.C.LAWMAKERS 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Re: NC Sheriffs Turn Up Heat To Change Convicted Felon Law

by **Juan Drynn**

Posted: **Thu Mar 18, 2010 7:57 am**

Great information, good post Joni.

Every citizen should send the information to their elected officials and encourage them to stand up to support this important legislation.

Lets see if the County Commissioners have the backbone to stand with the Sheriffs?

Juan

Re: NC Sheriffs Turn Up Heat To Change Convicted Felon Law

by **joniy66**

Posted: **Thu Mar 18, 2010 12:35 pm**

This effort by the NC Sheriff's Association is *not* just about our beloved felon. Stanley James of Washington County, convicted of felony embezzlement is running for office. Robert "Nub" Taylor, who was convicted of felony obstruction of justice in May 2006 and spent several months in prison is running for this high office in Avery County.

It is **absolutely** hypocritical that a candidate for a deputy's position must have a clean criminal background, but a convicted felon gets a "pass".

Write to your house representatives and Senator Bingham. The General Assembly can get **Senate Bill 351 passed and place a Constitutional Amendment on the November ballot.**

Re: NC Sheriffs Turn Up Heat To Change Convicted Felon Law

by **oldlady**

Posted: **Thu Mar 18, 2010 3:34 pm**

Who are the people of Davidson County that they are so weak-minded and retarded that these elected politicians like Stan Bingham and his cronies must decide WHO the citizens of Davidson County can vote for....There has been no visible sign of intelligence in Raleigh or Washington, DC in so long that it might be considered extinct if it was a life form!! Mr Bingham and that corrupt crowd of politicians are only interested in making sure they stay in power....look at their motivations...they want their buddies like Grice in office so that they can have control. They want to control any threat to the status quo and they don't want their own dirty secrets and backroom deals to be exposed to the electorate. Whether I vote for one candidate or another is my business, not Mr Bingham and sheriffs from other counties. If it is legal for an individual to run for office, then by no means should the citizens of NC and Davidson County surrender another of their meager rights to corrupt politicians....I can guarantee that if Hege was Mr. Bingham's stooge as Grice is, you would never hear of this little maneuver..

Re: NC Sheriffs Turn Up Heat To Change Convicted Felon Law

by **Juan Drynn**

Posted: **Thu Mar 18, 2010 3:51 pm**

oldlady wrote:

Who are the people of Davidson County that they are so weak-minded and retarded that these elected politicians like Stan Bingham and his cronies must decide WHO the citizens of Davidson County can vote for....

I'll guess it was an elected body of government similar to those that gave us laws regarding prohibiting children from voting. Not that they were always correct, they also prohibited women from voting; which required a Constitutional amendment to change.

That will be the case with this new effort, there will be a statewide Constitutional Amendment enacted. It's a long process, so you will certainly have time to vote for your favorite cast of felons in the upcoming primary.

oldlady wrote:

There has been no visible sign of intelligence in Raleigh or Washington, DC in so long that it might be considered extinct if it was a life form!!

Well Oldlady, they are called the PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES for a reason.

Juan Drynn

Re: NC Sheriffs Turn Up Heat To Change Convicted Felon Law

by **attorneywatchdog**

Posted: **Thu Mar 18, 2010 5:16 pm**

"Prohibiting children and women from voting?" Juan, you wanting to compare federal and state constitutions now? Oldlady's post is refreshing and very "to the point." You can't shoot it down! This is the voice, I as referring to in an earlier post, and I can only hope there will be more coming forward to defend their right to cast their vote! By the way, identify these sheriffs who came forward and contacted Mr. Bingham with their concerns. Why wasn't such a bill introduced by Mr. Bingham before now? Was it never expected for this to happen? Well, seems to me, a little late to close the barn doors after the horses have gotten out? Wasn't there a former sheriff who escaped the long arm of a federal investigation in the past only for the loyalty or fear of reprisal if information had been provided? And, don't ask me to provide you with a link, information like that doesn't get published. It's just out there, and you have got to know the right people with the information. But, yes, oldlady, you know what you are talking about and don't stop!

Re: NC Sheriffs Turn Up Heat To Change Convicted Felon Law

by **bigred60**

Posted: **Thu Mar 18, 2010 5:26 pm**

AWD and oldwoman...go back and read the article again...The legislature is NOT voting this into law- they are voting this into a referendum- meaning YOU WILL GET TO VOTE ON IT! (yeah-I'm yelling)You will have a say as to whether it is passed or not, so loosen up your undies for now....then get all your felon-loving people together and vote down the referendum in November ...and we'll get together all our no-felon voters together and we'll see who wins! 😊

news-record.com

State lawmaker says felons shouldn't run for sheriff

- [Article](#)
- [Comments \(11\)](#)

Thursday, May 6, 2010
(Updated 10:17 am)

By [THE ASSOCIATED PRESS](#)

WINSTON-SALEM (AP) — Four felons who ran for sheriff in North Carolina all lost this week, but a legislator says he'll still push for a bill to prevent felons from running.

The [Winston-Salem Journal reported today](#) that Sen. Stan Bingham said he'll continue pushing the bill even though the men lost. The Republican proposed his bill in anticipation that Gerald Hege would run for his old job as Davidson County sheriff.

Hege lost to Sheriff David Grice in Tuesday's GOP primary. Hege had pleaded guilty to two felony counts that resulted from a sweeping investigation of the sheriff's office.

Bingham says he'll push the bill as long as the N.C. Sheriff's Association supports it. The association voted unanimously in March to back the bill.

Former Washington County Sheriff Stanley James also lost.

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State lawmaker says felons shouldn't run for sheriff

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Inappropriate content? Please report abuse.

D.R.King

May 6, 2010 - 10:45 am EDT

The bill should be that a felon can not run for any public office, Not just for sheriff. I think that would make more sense!!!!

Panacea

May 6, 2010 - 11:00 am EDT

The laws were written that way to allow former Confederates to seek public office :)

It is time for a change, I think.

DonMoore

May 6, 2010 - 11:14 am EDT

If Felons can't run for Sheriff, the only Felons left would be in the General Assembly. (of those in public service)

danleehill

May 6, 2010 - 1:25 pm EDT

yes ,,thats right

thirstytarheel

May 6, 2010 - 11:26 am EDT

This is the NC legislature you're talking about. Laws and discussions in Raleigh aren't supposed to make sense. This loophole allowing felons to hold office should have been done away with years ago. Of course our lawmakers have to take care of their friends and family and that's why it has never been changed. Also

Stan Bingham is a Republican, what chance does a bill he sponsors have of being passed in a legislature that has been controlled by the Democrats for over 100 years. Former Speaker of the House Jim Black is currently in prison and former Governor Mike Easley will probably soon be joining him. BTW they're both Democrats, but I'm sure if some of our Republican friends live up to my expectations, we'll have some of them paying their debt to society too.

Newtotown28

May 6, 2010 - 11:27 am EDT

How can a felon be a sheriff to begin with, when they are not suppose to own/carry a fire arm???? Does not make any sense. The sheriff may have to be behind the desk a majority of the time, but they must still carry a gun. I am not at all against any police agency, but they are suppose to uphold the law and how can this be done if the Sheriff is breaking the law themselves????

nemo0037

May 6, 2010 - 1:08 pm EDT

What I can't fathom is how over 3,000 people voted to place a man convicted of OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE in the Sheriff's office. Maybe the state NEEDS to protect these people from themselves...

danleehill

May 6, 2010 - 1:25 pm EDT

DonMoore you are so right!

Waldo Leidecker

May 6, 2010 - 1:27 pm EDT

Apparently over 3800 knuckle-dragging rednecks in Davidson County think otherwise - God help us all.

devilsadvocate

May 6, 2010 - 4:03 pm EDT

I really do not see the point! So, they discriminate against felons by not letting them join the police academy but in turn lets them run for Sheriff. So i guess there are better opportunities after committing crimes. Why be an officer when you can be the boss!

MiMi

May 6, 2010 - 5:47 pm EDT

Well.....what about the people who try to enforce the laws who participate in crime.....now I am referring to when a sheriff's deputy was sent to "stand guard" at a property which was trespassed, broken into and property removed by people who had no business being in the property.....are these people exempt from this also? And the strange thing about this incident....the DA was contacted....and he could not do anything about it....said we would have to get an attorney....an attorney was gotten....and it was still SWEPT RIGHT UNDER THE RUG.....the people at the sheriff's office were instructed not to talk to anyone about what happened.....so are there 2 sets of rules here?

Those who know who to contact to get by with things....and those who know about crimes that took place but do not do anything about them....since one of their own was sent while the crime was committed.....

As I see it....the law SHOULD BE FOR EVERYONE.....not just some.....

And then there is a person I know....who was in the wrong place at the wrong time....he was stopped and shot at numerous times....hit several....and then trumped up charges were made to cover the cops' butts who did this stunt....and the sad thing is....NO ONE DONE ANYTHING ABOUT THIS EITHER....again....an innocent person was made a scap goat....by people who are suppose to enforce the law....this person lived through it....and served time for something that the cops had no business doing in the first place.....

JUSTICE? AMERICA does not have any.....it is not WHAT YOU KNOW....but WHO YOU KNOW.....

DID this really happen? Sure did.....right here in NC....right here in a city near you....if you are reading this post....

THIS IS AMERICA though....and anything goes in AMERICA.....

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The Crime Scene

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N.C. Sheriffs: No felon as sheriff

The N.C. Sheriffs' Association expressed Wednesday its opposition to convicted felons being sheriffs, which is allowable by law.

The most recognized felon running for office this year is former **Davidson County Sheriff Gerald Hege**, but he's not the only one. The press release doesn't mention any candidate by name, instead saying, "it is regrettable that convicted felons have filed to run for election to the Office of Sheriff this year, but the sheriffs have confidence that the public will ensure that no convicted felon is elected as sheriff."

Read the association's full statement:

Raleigh, North Carolina --- Do you know that a convicted felon can be elected and can serve as a county sheriff, according to our State Constitution? The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association is strongly opposed to any convicted felon being a sheriff, the head law enforcement official in each county. **The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association does not want something as crucial and fundamental to professional law enforcement as the public trust to be placed in the hands of a known felon, having been found to be such in a court of law.**

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If enacted into law by the General Assembly, Senate Bill 351 would place on the ballot in November, 2010 a constitutional amendment to be voted upon by the people of North Carolina that would prohibit a convicted felon from serving as sheriff in our state. Under current law, a convicted felon who has fully completed the sentence imposed by the court automatically has their "rights restored" by operation of law, and is then eligible to vote and to hold public office in North Carolina, including among others, the Office of Sheriff.

Sheriff James Knight of Edgecombe County, president of the Association said: "The sheriffs of North Carolina vigorously support this legislation and adamantly believe that a convicted felon should not be allowed to run for or be elected or appointed as sheriff in our great state. The standards for our deputy sheriffs established by the sheriffs and other members of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission prohibit a convicted felon from being certified as a deputy sheriff.

The constitutional amendment sought by Senate Bill 351 will apply this same standard to the men and women who serve in the constitutional Office of Sheriff." "It is the position of the sheriffs of North Carolina that a convicted felon should be barred from holding any elective office in our state, but the Association is continuing to focus its efforts on getting this restriction applied to the Office of Sheriff," said **Sheriff Jerry Monette of Craven County**, chairman of the Association's Executive Committee. Sheriff Monette continued: "During the upcoming 2010 session of the North Carolina General Assembly that begins in May, we will be working with our friends in the legislature on both sides of the aisle to get this important legislation enacted so the voters

can help us get this constitutional amendment adopted on Election Day this November.”

The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association is the professional organization of our state's sheriffs and includes as members all of the 100 sheriffs in North Carolina. In the discussion of this issue by the sheriffs, they noted that it is regrettable that convicted felons have filed to run for election to the Office of Sheriff this year, but the sheriffs have confidence that the public will ensure that no convicted felon is elected as sheriff.

Sheriff Sam Page of Rockingham County, first vice president of the Association, noted: “We respect and fully support the constitutional right of the citizens of each of North Carolina's 100 counties to make the decision at the ballot box about who will serve their county as sheriff. However, we are united in our belief that the North Carolina Constitution should be amended to prohibit a convicted felon from serving as an elected or appointed sheriff. As North Carolina's sheriffs, we want our fellow citizens to know that many hardships will result if a convicted felon is allowed to serve as the chief law enforcement officer in the county responsible for protecting and serving you and other citizens in your county.”

Federal law prohibits a convicted felon from possessing a firearm. Integrity, professionalism and the confidence of the public in our criminal justice system requires that convicted felons not be eligible to serve as sheriff.

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- Patrolling the counties and enforcing the law.
- Maintaining and operating jails.
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- Providing security for North Carolina's courtrooms.
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The Office of Sheriff is the oldest and most respected elected office in America, having been brought to this country by the colonists from England. The founding fathers of our nation made it an elected office because they were determined that the sheriff would be directly responsible and accountable to the people. North Carolina's sheriffs take pride in their office and they take seriously their duties and responsibilities to the people of North Carolina.

From its state headquarters in Raleigh, the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association has been proudly serving the sheriffs and citizens of North Carolina since 1922.

- [Permalink](#)

Posted by **Dioni L. Wise** on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 7:17 pm

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No felons as sheriffs (audio)

Sen. Stan Bingham filed [S 351: No Felon as Sheriff](#) earlier this month, and I've had it rattling around on my to-do list for a while. (Dome posted on it [here](#).)

Currently, a sheriff can't hire someone as a deputy who has been convicted of a felony. But, as long as someone has had their voting rights restored, a convicted felon can run to be sheriff.

Bingham's bill would put a constitutional amendment before voters. If enacted, it would add the following to the qualifications for sheriff:

No person is eligible to serve as Sheriff if that person has been adjudged guilty of any felony against this State or the United States, or of a felony in another state that also would be a felony if it had been committed in this State, whether or not that person has been restored to the rights of citizenship in the manner prescribed by law.

([Click here to listen to Bingham and I talk about his bill.](#))

Who might this apply to? Well, Bingham is from Davidson County and there have been rumors - [See this discussion on the Lexington Dispatch's forums page](#) - that former Davidson County Sheriff Gerald Hege might give it a go in 2010.

Hege, for those of you who don't remember, was once dubbed "America's toughest sheriff," but ended up pleading guilty to two felonies in 2004. From a News & Record story in 2007 when Hege finished his probation:

The probation stemmed from his guilty plea in May 2004 to two felony counts of obstruction of justice for attempts to cover up money missing from the vice and narcotics unit of the sheriff's department. He resigned from the office he had held since being elected in 1994.

During Hege's first year of probation, he was under house arrest with an electronic monitoring ankle bracelet and was allowed to leave his home only for work, said Keith Acree, a spokesman for the N.C. Department of Corrections.

[snip]

Hege also paid \$7,900 in court-ordered fees and restitution, Acree said. Hege completed 50 hours of community service working in the kitchen of the Salvation Army in Lexington.

Hege's guilty plea in 2004 ended a nine-year tenure as sheriff marked by his eccentric tactics: pink jail cells, paramilitary garb and media grandstanding. Hege generated national - and even international - attention for some of his techniques.

The criminal case against Hege stemmed from a State Bureau of Investigation probe that involved testimony from 28 of his own employees, including two top supervisors.

There were allegations Hege ordered prisoner abuse, promoted racial profiling, recklessly drove his sheriff's car and misused county personnel and equipment. But it was Hege's attempts to cover up money missing from the department's vice and narcotics unit that sealed his fate.

As a convicted felon, Hege couldn't carry a firearm, but he could hold the office.

Bingham said that he was contacted by several Piedmont area sheriff's asking him to run the bill. When asked if it was in direct response to the possibility Hege will run again, Bingham said, "Of course it is, Hege and others. He's not the only one."

Bingham said he expected Hege to run in 2010 but said the prospects for getting his bill through the General Assembly weren't good. That's because amendments to the state's constitution are scrutinized closely by members who are reticent about changing the state's foundational document.

So, was Bingham concerned about a Hege run in 2010?

"Absolutely he'll run again, but I don't think he'll get elected," Bingham said. "But there's no doubt about it, he's going to run."

[Click here to listen to Bingham and I talk about his bill.](#)

TAGS:

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Posted by [Mark Binker](#) on March 17, 2009 12:00 AM | [Permalink](#)

Comments (2)

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James Protzman said:

Felon as sheriff is one of the many plot lines in my next novel. Your reporting is good for all sorts of lurid details ... stuff I couldn't make up if I tried!

[My first novel](#), and [snippets of the second](#).

Posted on [March 17, 2009 9:13 AM](#)

scharrison said:

news-record.com

Voters poised to judge sheriffs' qualifications

Wednesday, June 30, 2010
(Updated 5:05 pm)

By **GARY D. ROBERTSON**
Associated Press

RALEIGH (AP) — Voters in six counties decided in May they didn't want former lawbreakers as their sheriffs. Now voters across North Carolina are poised to get a chance this November to remove them permanently from the candidate pool for the centuries-old office.

The House unanimously agreed Wednesday with the Senate's proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit convicted felons from serving as sheriff. The chamber will need to approve the language one more time Thursday before it shows up on the Nov. 2 ballot. A majority of voters would have to agree to the amendment before it's embossed in the constitution.

Six candidates for sheriff who are known felons ran unsuccessfully during the May 4 primary election, including ex-Washington County Sheriff Stanley James and former Davidson County Sheriff Gerald Hege. They all lost. But they shouldn't be qualified to run to begin with, said Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson, the bill's chief proponent.

"This shouldn't have to be, especially if you've got a CEO of a large law enforcement agency," said Bingham, who worked hard to get Hege defeated in May. "It's a little bit different being a felon and getting a job at Hardee's, or somewhere else."

The North Carolina Constitution has few restrictions for people running for elected office. There are minimum ages to serve as governor or in the Legislature. Judges, district attorneys and the attorney general must be duly "authorized to practice law in the courts of this state." Convicted felons can seek office — including sheriff — once their rights of citizenship are restored, usually when they have completed their punishment.

The North Carolina Sheriffs Association has pushed for the restriction on the office, arguing it's a matter of ethics for a county's top elected law enforcement officer to follow the law. The association's standards already bar convicted felons from serving as deputy sheriffs.

A convicted felon also is barred from owning a gun, which could put a sheriff at a disadvantage, especially in small departments where the sheriff is more than an administrator, said Rep. Dan Ingle, R-Alamance, before the bill was tentatively approved in the House by a vote of 112-0.

While the association isn't aware of felon being elected a sheriff, Edgecombe County Sheriff James Knight, said he believes the large number of felons who ran last month has helped lawmakers take up an issue the association has pushed for years.

"It's sort of hit home and reality set in once they saw the people that were running for sheriff," said Knight, the association's president.

Association lobbyist Eddie Caldwell said he knew of no opposition to the bill. But at least one of the primary candidates — David Morrow of Cleveland County — said there's no need to change the constitution because voters are already making their feelings known when they cast ballots in the sheriff's races. Morrow has run for sheriff four times and received 26 percent of the vote in May's Republican primary.

"That issue is already decided by the people when they vote," said Morrow, who served nine months in prison on what he called a drug-related felony conspiracy charge. He got out of prison 19 years ago Thursday. He said he was innocent of the charge stemming from \$300 in marijuana sold on his property.

news-record.com

Hege files to run for sheriff in Davidson

- [Article](#)
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Wednesday, February 10, 2010
(Updated 7:04 am)

By **WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**

LEXINGTON (MCT) — Almost six years after leaving the Davidson County Sheriff's Office in disgrace, former Sheriff Gerald K. Hege filed election paperwork yesterday in a bid to get his old job back.

Meanwhile, incumbent Sheriff David Grice, also a Republican, said yesterday that he will file for re-election on Monday.

Hege, wearing black jeans and a black leather jacket and surrounded by about a dozen supporters, entered the Davidson County Board of Elections office just before noon and gave his filing information to elections director Ruth Honeycutt.

"Have you ever been convicted of a felony?" Honeycutt asked at one point.

"Yes," Hege answered.

"What was the offense?" she asked.

"Obstruction of justice," he replied.

Hege stumbled over some of the questions — such as the date that his citizenship was restored — but otherwise it was a routine filing that was over in a matter of minutes.

"I love it," he said of being sheriff. "I thought I did a good job at it."

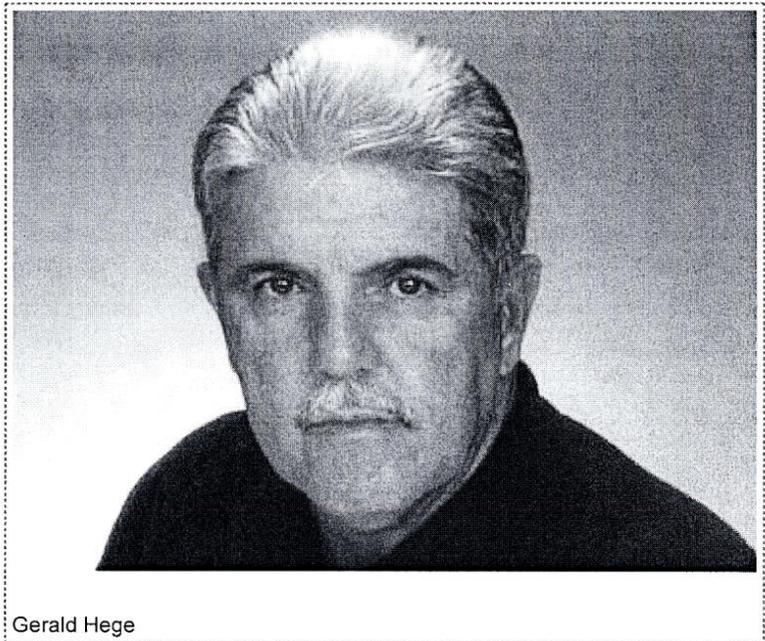
As a convicted felon, Hege would not be allowed to carry a gun, although he said he might work later to have that right restored.

"I'm not worried about that at all," he said.

A gun doesn't always help on the job, Hege said. One thing that all law-enforcement officers who have been recently killed in the line of duty have in common is that they were armed at the time they were killed, he said.

In May 2004 Hege pleaded guilty to two felony counts of obstruction of justice in connection with allegations of corruption within his department.

Hege had been charged with 15 felony counts. Garry Frank, the district attorney for Davidson County, gathered



Related Links

- [Video: Guess who's back...and running for sheriff?](#)
- [Hege will decide in November if he'll run for sheriff \(Sep. 16, 2009\)](#)

sworn affidavits from more than 30 sheriff's deputies and associates of Hege's and used them as the basis of the criminal charges. Hege never served prison time, and his probation ended in 2007.

Asked if he would do anything differently, Hege said he would probably hire an attorney and put him in an office directly across from his because he didn't pay close enough attention to the paperwork part of the job. He said he would pay for the attorney out of his sheriff's salary.

Hege will be running to replace Grice, who said that crime has decreased under his watch, and that he has run the office in an honest, cost-effective way and has returned civility and dignity to the office.

Grice was appointed to fill Hege's seat in 2004 and was elected to the position in 2006.

"I feel like I've earned a second term," Grice said.

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Hege files to run for sheriff in Davidson

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ustaxpayer

February 10, 2010 - 5:59 am EST

If I lived in Davidson County I would vote for Hege. Although I have never lived in Davidson County, I was a Pharmacist at CVS on Center Street in Lexington in the late 90s and respected Sheriff Hege for how he was tough on crime and stood up for the law abiding. Let him without sin cast the first stone. Good Luck Hege!!! God Bless us all. <><

JoeScott

February 10, 2010 - 7:14 am EST

Talk to the people who actually lived in Davidson County under Hege's reign and they'll tell you the man was a horrible lawman. Especially when it came to curbing domestic violence. The cases simply disappeared because he chose to do nothing about them.

The only thing he was good for was riding into a parking lots full of children and acting like a manic circus clown by letting them play with his unloaded machine guns.

A crook has no business wearing a badge. To elect this man would only embolden him to engage in further acts of corruption and embezzlement.

JoeScott

February 10, 2010 - 7:22 am EST

P.S. Jesus might not have wanted the town to stone the prostitute, but I don't think he was telling anyone to mary her either.

Interested

February 10, 2010 - 7:19 am EST

He was tough on crime? Are you kidding? His own officers guilty of stealing from the community they were sworn to protect! Painting a jail cell pink is not being tough on crime. Shutting a highway down to race your squad car is not being tough on crime. He talked the talk to garner attention for himself, but failed to walk

the walk. And in this tough economy, he talks about hiring an attorney, as opposed to a deputy, because he failed to do the paperwork required of his job the last time.

Mick

February 10, 2010 - 8:05 am EST

The article clearly states Hege will pay for the Attorney from his own salary.

Interested

February 10, 2010 - 8:25 am EST

I saw that. My point was that the paperwork is his job. If there is enough money in his salary to pay for an attorney, why not hire another deputy to help patrol, knowing that crime tends to increase in a down economy.

Mick

February 10, 2010 - 9:11 am EST

We dont really know if they need another deputy. Might ... might not. I agree paperwork is part of his job. No argument there.

All that being said/typed: and not that it matters as I am a GSO type but actions have consequences. He wouldnt get my vote. Yes, yes I know. He's paid his debt to society, etc. Got it. Just wouldn't want a convicted felon representing my county. And not being able to carry a gun is a problem for me. This is for the citizens of Davidson County to decide. Good luck.

Mick
Ledford High School 1978

nemrac

February 11, 2010 - 1:10 am EST

What an idiot!!

Yoda

February 10, 2010 - 6:42 am EST

I would like to see Hege as Sherrif again. Would vote for him in a skinny minute.

carcrazy

February 10, 2010 - 8:27 am EST

what a tool.

nemrac

February 11, 2010 - 1:12 am EST

Tool, what a Fool. Yoda, you have just tainted your opinion about serious matters. I am sorry to see you lower yourself to this.

Panacea

February 10, 2010 - 8:09 am EST

Well, the voters will speak, and when they do they will get the kind of sheriff they deserve.

Cemetery

February 10, 2010 - 10:19 am EST

How very Zen! Your point is a good one, Panacea.

Karl Leibknecht

February 10, 2010 - 8:17 am EST

The fact that there are apparently people already lining up to support this lunatic is just further proof of the impending apocolypse. Only in America...

HotRodLincoln

February 10, 2010 - 11:45 pm EST

He has a lot of mouth on him. I'll bet he is a big favorite at the Tea Party's.

CarolinaBorn

February 10, 2010 - 8:23 am EST

Just proof that these comment sections are for people that have nothing better to do than sit at their desk and complain because it makes them feel better.

Pretty sure Greensboro is not in Davidson County, so I dont really understand why people get bent out of shape over this. Go back to complaining about your hotel problems and what ever else, don't worry about the people of Davidson County.

Brandon Burgess

February 10, 2010 - 9:39 am EST

I just hope Davidson County has learned a lesson from Greensboro. See what happens when you let less than qualified folks run the department?

notoriousBLOG

February 10, 2010 - 8:46 am EST

Since we are talking about Davidson County here, I think there would be enough idiots to vote him in! What an egotistical jerk he is. Makes a mockery of the office.

nclawkid

February 10, 2010 - 9:08 am EST

YES! Because convicted felons should absolutely be in charge of enforcing the law.

CherylP25

February 10, 2010 - 9:14 am EST

I hope he doesn't win. Ridiculous.

drstrangelove

February 10, 2010 - 9:55 am EST

So a gun "does not always help"? That's a revelation. This from the guy who expedited hundreds of concealed carry permits, by far, most in the state. This from a guy who made brandishing weapons a part of his profile. This from a guy who ran through neighborhood firing a gun into the air? If he believes a gun is not always needed, I'd say he's not only been "rehabilitated", he's probably been brainwashed, or it's an alien that's taken over Hege's body. I want to believe!

Cemetery

February 10, 2010 - 10:20 am EST

Good point.

Cemetery

February 10, 2010 - 10:17 am EST

It's not like this guy was Eliot Ness who rid the area of corruption & greed. Hege WAS the corruption & greed. He is nothing but a former kingpin in the world of crime & he has been convicted of 2 felonies! This would automatically disqualify him for many other jobs within the police department. Allegations of racial profiling & unethical practices have followed Mr. Hege for years. If I lived in Davidson County, I wouldn't blink twice when voting AGAINST Hege.

JoeScott

February 10, 2010 - 11:37 am EST

Excellent point, Cemetery.

drstrangelove

February 10, 2010 - 8:29 pm EST

Ever see the TV series "The Shield" on FX?? Ran for about 7 seasons and just finished up a couple years back. The protagonist, Vic Mackey, is about the best comparison. Mackey was as corrupt as they came, not just bending rules, but flat-out breaking them in order to further his own interests. In the end, he sold out those closest around him to skate free. And as I am writing this, I think maybe I am disgracing Mackey by comparing him to Hege!

Kid A

February 10, 2010 - 10:33 am EST

Nice glamour shot, Gerry. Pink jail indeed.

Cemetery

February 10, 2010 - 11:17 am EST

Kid A...funny! I was thinking that photo looked very "polished." I love how he wears black all the time, like he's Johnny Cash.

J.M.W.

February 10, 2010 - 10:50 am EST

Andy didn't need a gun...

skinsfan

February 10, 2010 - 1:49 pm EST

Although I thankfully do not live in Davidson County, I do believe that it matters to other surrounding counties that Hege not return to office. A major highway passes right through the middle of that county, and I often travel through the area. Having a "high sheriff" such as Hege presiding should matter to all citizens living in surrounding areas who might on occasion venture through Davidson county.

I have a vested interest in Hege not returning to office because I do not wish to be subjected to the "Hege style" of justice when I quickly pass through lovely Davidson county on my travels. How could the citizens of Davidson county even consider electing a CONVICTED FELON to the highest office in LAW ENFORCEMENT in that county?

As Panacea noted earlier..."Well, the voters will speak, and when they do they will get the kind of sheriff they deserve."

justice2010

February 10, 2010 - 7:41 pm EST

If an SBI Criminal Specialist can continue to earn his state salary of \$72,423 after being reported for having a sexual relationship with a convicted felon while on intensive probation, assisting the person with breaking a mandated curfew, using his state issued car to transport his liaisons to medical appointments, out for meals, transporting them to his dwelling for the evening and discussing a agent's confidential medical and personnel situation with a liaison than anyone regardless of their criminal past should be able to run for any public office. Where is the justice!

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Bill would bar felons from sheriff's office

Saturday, March 20, 2010
(Updated Sunday, March 21 - 6:54 am)

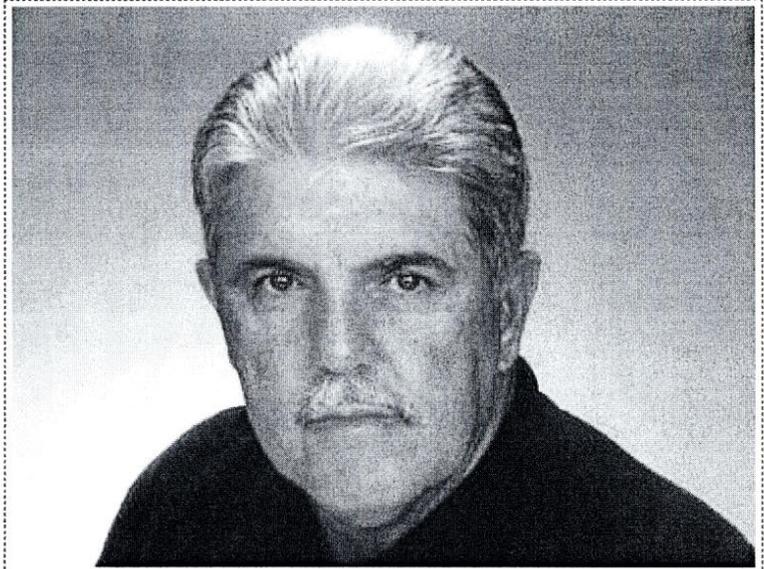
By **DIONI L. WISE**
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — Rockingham County Sheriff Sam Page tries to picture a convicted felon walking into schools and churches with a sheriff's badge on to talk about obeying the law.

"I just don't see how you can look people in the face if you're sheriff — and you're a convicted felon — and do your job," Page said.

Page and dozens of other members of the N.C. Sheriffs' Association are supporting N.C. Senate Bill 351 — called "No Felon as Sheriff" — to prohibit a felon from becoming sheriff.

The bill was first introduced by Republican state Sen. Stan Bingham, who represents Davidson and Guilford counties, in 2009 and is pending in the N.C. General Assembly.



Gerald Hege

If enacted, the bill would be placed on the Nov. 2 ballot as a state constitutional amendment.

It would not affect anyone running for office this year.

Under current law, convicted felons who have completed their sentence automatically have their rights restored, meaning they can vote and hold public office in North Carolina.

However, federal law prohibits a convicted felon from having a gun.

Eddie Caldwell, the sheriffs' association's executive vice president, said he has heard of five or six convicted felons running for sheriff in the state this year.

Gerald Hege, a Davidson County Republican and former sheriff once called "America's toughest sheriff," is one such candidate.

"It really doesn't affect me," Hege said of the bill being put on the ballot.

He said the push by the sheriffs' association, a group to which he never belonged, was just "for political reasons."

In May 2004, Hege, the sitting sheriff at the time, pleaded guilty to two felony counts of obstruction of justice in connection with corrupt activity in his department.

Hege didn't serve prison time; his probation ended in 2007.

Related Links

- [Hege files to run for sheriff in Davidson \(Feb. 10\)](#)
- [Sen. Bingham on no felon as sheriff](#)

Other candidates:

I Former Washington County Sheriff Stanley James is vying for his old position after serving prison time for embezzlement.

I David Morrow, a candidate in Cleveland County, has a felony drug conviction from 1991, records show.

I Robert "Nub" Taylor is running for Avery County sheriff for a second time despite pleading guilty to obstruction of justice in 2006 .

I Mark Stewart, a candidate in McDowell County, was convicted of selling drugs in 1987 and possessing drugs in 1998, records show.

Guilford County Sheriff BJ Barnes said his support for the bill is not in direct opposition to any of those candidates.

"Basically what it amounts to is if a deputy sheriff had a charge, he could not be a deputy sheriff, so why should the person who has the same charges be able to be sheriff?"

Page said he would talk to lawmakers, urging them to approve the bill.

"I think the voters will make the right decision — which they should — to hold the sheriff to higher standards than we currently are right now."

Page will become the association's president at its meeting in July. At that meeting, Page said the sheriffs most likely will talk about the possibility of a convicted felon becoming a member of the association.

"I think that having a person that was a convicted felon would undermine what the association strives to do, which again is to raise the standard with our training, with our expertise," Page said.

Contact Dioni L. Wise at 373-7090 or dioni.wise@news-record.com

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The Crime Scene

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Sen. Bingham on "No Felon as Sheriff"

Senate Bill 351 has become a hot topic as of late. The "No Felon as Sheriff" bill aims to place on the ballot in November a state constitutional amendment to be voted upon by N.C. residents that would prohibit a convicted felon from serving as sheriff.

Sen. Stan Bingham who introduced the bill in 2009, said the amendment probably would not affect any convicted felons that could be elected sheriff in November. The change would probably not have the power to retroactively oust a sheriff. Bingham said that it would create more problems, such as more elections and more spending of scarce funds.

Bingham said he would have a tough enough job trying to get the N.C. General Assembly to vote on it during short session. The legislative session convenes May 12. It has taken him four years to get some bills passed, he said.

When asked if "No Felon as Sheriff" would be on the ballot for voters in November, he said, "That's really likely that it will not. I just don't think we're going to have time."

What was the main inspiration behind the bill? The affidavits from the case against **Gerald Hege**, who is running for his old position as Davidson County sheriff.

"That will inspire you to do a lot of things," Bingham said. "God knows he's bad news. I mean he's one mean son of a gun."

In May 2004, Hege, the sitting sheriff at the time, pleaded guilty to two felony counts of obstruction of justice in connection with corrupt activity in his department.

Hege didn't serve prison time; his probation ended in 2007 .

Bingham also got a push from other law enforcement officials, who said Hege was not a "team player" and could not work well with other agencies.

"That's a success of any law enforcement agency – is working together," Bingham said.

Bingham has another partner willing to work with him and he said he's glad that the N.C. Sheriffs' Association is backing him up on the bill.

- [Permalink](#)

Posted by **Dioni L. Wise** on Friday, March 19, 2010 at 11:36 pm

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Signs in Davidson indicate Hege may consider another run at sheriff

by DARRICK IGNASIAK

11 months ago | 1612 views | 16 | 15



SPECIAL | Courtesy WXII Signs like this one in Lexington are popping up around Davidson County in support of Gerald Hege for sheriff.

DAVIDSON COUNTY – Five years after pleading guilty to two felony counts of obstruction of justice, former Davidson County Sheriff Gerald Hege may be considering a run for sheriff in 2010.

Signs supporting the controversial sheriff are popping up in Davidson County, according to WXII-TV.

Attempts by The High Point Enterprise to reach Hege for comment were unsuccessful Friday.

Hege resigned as sheriff in 2004 and pleaded guilty to two felony counts of obstruction of justice for attempting to cover up money missing from the vice and narcotics unit of the sheriff's department. The former sheriff, who was elected in 1994, ended his probation in May 2007.

After finishing his probation and as a convicted felon, Hege could vote and also run for sheriff again. Under state and federal law, Hege can never own a gun even if he is ever re-elected to the post of sheriff because he is a convicted felon.

According to Ruth Huneycutt, director of the Davidson County Board of Elections, Hege registered as a Republican in Oct. 10, 2008.

Huneycutt said Hege's background was checked to make sure he had completed his probation before he could be registered to vote again.

On Friday, Davidson County Sheriff David Grice said he will run for sheriff in 2010, but would not comment on the potential candidacy of Hege. Grice has been in office since 2004 as he was appointed by the Republican Party to fill the seat of Hege. He easily retained the office of sheriff in 2006 for a four-year term with a victory over Roy Holman.

"I'm definitely going to be running on the Republican ticket in 2010," Grice said. "I'm not going to comment much about any candidacy or so forth. It's too early to get back and forth on that. We have done a good job under my administration, and I think I have earned a second term."

Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson, said a bill that would have amended the North Carolina Constitution to make convicted felons ineligible to hold the office of sheriff is "now a dead issue." The bill, which was introduced by Bingham, was dropped for consideration in the N.C. Senate because it required a constitutional amendment, Bingham said. He said he introduced the bill on behalf of three sheriffs in adjoining counties because felons aren't able to carry guns.

"It seemed an injustice that you could hire 100 officers that could carry guns and you are the boss and you can't even carry one," Bingham said. "It seemed like a discrepancy in the law in my opinion and that was the purpose of introducing this as an issue of fairness."

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« RANDY/G./GRIMKNOTME wrote on Monday, Nov 09 at 02:36 PM »

« Bubba J wrote on Sunday, Nov 08 at 12:31 PM »

O.K. Randy G this one is for you. Why don't you make sure that you get Gerald elected, apply for the Sheriff's department and work under his dictatorship. Maybe he will even give you a brush to help paint the jail. But one last thing. If you have been convicted of a felony, you can forget being hired because even the so called high Sheriff does not have that power. I also hope that you do not call for help at you house in the middle of the night because someone broke into you home and had a gun when hege shows up. He will be bringing a stick to a gun fight.... How protected are you now? I wonder if he will turn his Spider car into a Tonka truck? HmMMM makes you thin doesn't it. Freeze, I have a stick. Drop your AK-47 and put your hands on top of your head. What a joke..

Well Bubba

At least painting the jail would be a job , like many dont have in Davidson county.

(But one last thing. If you have been convicted of a felony, you can forget being hired because even the so called high Sheriff does not have that power.) Thats common sense A Deputy is required to carry a gun a Sheriff is not.

(I also hope that you do not call for help at you house in the middle of the night because someone broke into you home and had a gun when hege shows up. He will be bringing a stick to a gun fight.... How protected are you now? I wonder if he will turn his Spider car into a Tonka truck? HmMMM makes you thin doesn't it. Freeze, I have a stick. Drop your AK-47 and put your hands on top of your head. What a joke..) NOPE JUST A BODY BAG OR 2

Sorry in taking so long in response delivering these RE-ELECT HEGE IN 2010 YARD SIGNS , AND PUTTING UP FLYERS OF THE SAT. NOV 21st FROM ,HIGH NOON UNTIL, AT THE DAVIDSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

>DAVIDSON COUNTY JAM FEST< ,WHICH WILL BE A CRUISE IN INCLUDING ; BIKES , TRACTORS , STREET RODS & SHOW CARS. COUNTRY MUSIC , BLUE GRASS & GOSPEL . AND OF COURSE GERALD HEGE AND THE FAMOUS SPIDER CAR . Hope to see ya all there

« Bubba J wrote on Sunday, Nov 08 at 12:31 PM »

Let's cut the crap here! If you are a convicted felon go try and get a job working with say, BB&T or Bank of America. Or better yet try being a security guard for Pinkerton's. You can't. I think that every drug dealer, robber, rapist, arsonist, and embezzler should run for office. I believe that as long as they have done their time and are off of probation, register and get some signs made up and start up a campaign using dirty drug money. What's the difference here? Obviously you Hege supporters have never been arrested. Does this mean that you never committed a crime and not caught? Think about that for a minute. Hege plea bargained with the Court in order to keep from going to prison. What this means is there were a whole lot of extra charges placed upon him, but instead of trying to defend himself (which he was guilty of) he took his hand spanking and went on so that he could lick his calf twice. What about his snake Ron Richardson? He folded like a penthouse at a pervert convention. He didn't want to go to jail with the people he worked around. He drank on the job while public works Director and hung out with Hege all of the time. Hege looked after the people that looked after him. If you crossed him or one of his supporters look out. He didn't even care if you were one of his own Deputies. This is called eating your own. O.K. Randy G this one is for you. Why don't you make sure that you get Gerald elected, apply for the Sheriff's department and work under his dictatorship. Maybe he will even give you a brush to help paint the jail. But one last thing. If you have been convicted of a felony, you can forget being hired because even the so called high Sheriff does not have that power. I also hope that you do not call for help at you house in the middle of the night because someone broke into you home and had a gun when hege shows up. He will be bringing a stick to a gun fight.... How protected are you now? I wonder if he will turn his Spider car into a Tonka truck? HmMMM makes you thin doesn't it. Freeze, I have a stick. Drop your AK-47 and put your hands on top of your head. What a joke..

« RANDY/G./GRIMKNOTME wrote on Thursday, Oct 29 at 08:37 AM »

QUOTE.....

« ATHIEST wrote on Monday, Sep 14 at 04:14 PM »

The man is a joke.....A proven lawbreaker.I am ashamed that his name is in the paper!)

First of all i feel sorry for your soul if you are truly one of them , i bet on your death bed you will not be one , and let one of us who is without sin cast ,the first stone . but since you seem to be (and its actually spelled ATHEIST i hate to even correct a spelling like that)you dont know the meaning of the first stone.

« RANDY/G./GRIMKNOTME wrote on Thursday, Oct 29 at 08:19 AM »

QUOTE

(The only reason why he had as many drug busts as he did was because his office didnt follow proper procedures. After one arrest, the criminals would get off on a technicality only for Hege to go out and arrest them again. When Hege was in office, Defense Attorneys LOVED coming to Davidson County!)

Explained this in your other post ,But im glad to see you agree with me on all his drug busts ,Great job by Hege and his Deputy's

QUOTE.....

(several of his deputies were arrested for drugs and extortion.)

Yes that was proven in court but Hege as most Sheriffs cant follow all his Deputy's around and wipe there noses when a couple go bad

« BillyBob86 wrote on Thursday, Oct 22 at 09:11 AM »

Im a Davidson County resident and I'll never vote for Hege.

The only reason why he had as many drug busts as he did was because his office didnt follow proper procedures. After one arrest, the criminals would get off on a technicality only for Hege to go out and arrest them again. When Hege was in office, Defense Attorneys LOVED coming to Davidson County!

Not only was Hege shuffled off to jail, but before that AND under HIS watch, several of his deputies were arrested for drugs and extortion.

In my opinion, he is as bad as the criminals he claims to be going after.

This ego-maniac should never be allowed to wear a badge again. If there isnt a state law that prohibits felons from running for public office, there should be.

« RANDY G. wrote on Monday, Oct 19 at 04:45 PM »

OH AND BY THE WAY MY SIGN LOOKS REAL NICE IN MY FRONT YARD !!

« RANDY G. wrote on Monday, Oct 19 at 04:28 PM »

GO FOR IT HEGE...WE ARE WITH YOU ALL THE WAY... LOTS OF PEOPLE HAVE SO MANY NEGATIVE COMMENTS, NOBODY IS PERFECT, DON'T JUDGE...HE HELPED TO KEEP MY CHILDREN SAFE FROM A PERVERT...SO WE ARE FOR HIM ALL THE WAY....

TELL IT LIKE IT IS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

AND HE HAS SO MUCH MORE TO OFFER BEEN A LITTLE LOST TIME LAST FEW YEARS !

« Mama Dukes wrote on Wednesday, Sep 23 at 06:19 PM »

GO FOR IT HEGE...WE ARE WITH YOU ALL THE WAY... LOTS OF PEOPLE HAVE SO MANY NEGATIVE COMMENTS, NOBODY IS PERFECT, DON'T JUDGE...HE HELPED TO KEEP MY CHILDREN SAFE FROM A PERVERT...SO WE ARE FOR HIM ALL THE WAY....

« Joel F. wrote on Thursday, Sep 17 at 08:21 AM »

I notice a lot of comments about Hege are from people living outside Davidson County. These people should be concerned about their Sheriff and not ours. Be concerned about your county that you live in.

People make mistakes, if you can call what was alleged that Hege did. Ole Bill Clinton was one, so was our prior Governor Easley,, which was of great multitude, and then you complain about Gerald Hege. Please!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

What about all the illegals entering our county and yours? They do nothing about them. What about all the Medicaid fraud that is going on in your county and we will worry about our sheriff.

If Hege runs, he will get elected.

Everyone complaining about Hege has probably done things worse than Him and have never been caught.

What is everybody afraid of when you mention Gerald Hege? I'm not. IF HE RUNS HE HAS GOT MY VOTE 100%.

« ATHIEST wrote on Monday, Sep 14 at 04:14 PM »

The man is a joke.....A proven lawbreaker.I am ashamed that his name is in the paper!

« wheelhouse wrote on Monday, Sep 14 at 10:33 AM »

PLEASE TELL ME DAVIDSON COUNTY IS NOT THAT IGNORANT, BE WORSE THAN BARNY FIFE as a convicted FELON he can't carry a gun muchless a bullet

« GRIMKNOTME wrote on Sunday, Sep 13 at 05:40 PM »

I ALSO SENT THIS TO HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE LAST WEEK BUT THEY SEEM TO THINK IT WAS NOT INPORTANT ENOUGH TO PUBLISH. THEY COULD HAVE HAD THE JUMP ON THE NEWS .BUT WHATEVER.

« GRIMKNOTME wrote on Sunday, Sep 13 at 05:37 PM »



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GERALD HEGE WILL RETURN IN 2010 ELECTIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE: GERALD HEGE IS SET TO RETURN IN THE ELECTION YEAR OF 2010

As i look at the county now i see frequent road blocks (but no where close as Hege had). I see drug busts (but no where as many as Hege produced) .I see doors getting kicked in (but most are home invasions in varius countys). When Hege was Sheriff it was usually him kicking in the door to round up the bad guys. I miss the good ole days.

Im here to let you know Hege is set to return to run for office of sheriff in the 2010 elections. Primary round may, Election round nov.

Even tho he had his share of problems but we see problems in everything and everyone just look,He still did a great job and if returned to office he will exceed that term. If something dont turn out the way we want it we yell foul.

As sheriff he will be there for you all. So in may vote with dignity, vote for the man, vote for a man how will be there for you late at nite and early in the mourn not just 9 to 5,.vote for a man who went on the record books for you the citizen of Davidson county.

He will have my vote and if most of you think about it,Dang i slept pretty good back when Hege was out n about.

So to explain to all of the people who are not sure of what a Sheriff consists of i have provided a explanation of the reference or term sheriff below.

A sheriff is in principle a legal official with responsibility for a county. In practice, the specific combination of legal, political, and ceremonial duties of a sheriff varies greatly from country to country.

The word "sheriff" is a contraction of the term "shire reeve". The term, from the Old English scirgerefa, designated a royal official responsible for keeping the peace (a "reeve") throughout a shire or county on behalf of the king.[1] The term was preserved in England notwithstanding the Norman Conquest. From England the term spread to several other countries, like Scotland, Ireland, and the United States.

The position of sheriff now exists in various countries:

* Sheriffs are administrative legal officials (similar to bailiffs) in Ireland, Australia, and Canada.

* Sheriffs are judges in Scotland.

* Sheriff is a ceremonial position in England, Wales and India.

* In the United States of America the role of a sheriff varies between different states and counties. In many rural areas, sheriffs and their deputies are the principal form of police, while in urban areas they may have more specialized duties, such as prisoner transport, serving warrants, service of process or police administration.

In the United States, a sheriff is generally, but not always, the highest law enforcement officer of a county. A sheriff is in most cases elected by the population of the county. In some states the sheriff is officially titled "High Sheriff", although the title is very rarely actually used.

The political election of a person to serve as a police leader is an almost uniquely American tradition. (The practice has been followed in the British Channel Island of Jersey since at least the 16th century.[3]) A sworn law enforcement officer working for a sheriff is called a "sheriff's deputy", "sheriff's officer", or something similar, and is authorized to perform the sheriff's duties. In some states, a sheriff may not be a sworn officer, but merely an elected official in charge of sworn officers. These officers may be subdivided into "general deputies" and "special deputies". In some places, the sheriff has the responsibility to recover any deceased persons within their county, in which case the full title is "sheriff-coroner". In some counties, the sheriff's principal deputy is the warden of the county jail or other local correctional institution.

In some areas of the United States, the sheriff is also responsible for collecting the taxes and may have other titles such as tax collector or county treasurer. Although rare, the sheriff may also be responsible for the county civil defense, emergency disaster service, rescue service, or emergency management.

In the U.S., the relationship between the sheriff and other police departments varies widely from state to state, and indeed in some states from county to county. In the northeastern U.S., the sheriff's duties have been greatly reduced with the advent of state-level law enforcement agencies, especially the state police and local agencies such as the county police. In Vermont, for instance, the elected sheriff is primarily an officer of the County Court, whose duties include running the county jail and serving papers in lawsuits and foreclosures. Law enforcement patrol is performed as well, in support of State Police and in the absence of a municipal police agency in rural towns. Some such towns contract with the sheriff to provide dedicated law enforcement presense in lieu of creating a local police force.

« La La wrote on Saturday, Sep 12 at 03:01 PM »

Thanks for trying Mr Bingham.

« La La wrote on Saturday, Sep 12 at 02:57 PM »

I's almost move back to Davidson County just to be able to vote against him.
He is unbelievable.

« Wally the Engineer wrote on Saturday, Sep 12 at 01:32 PM »

This is INSANE! He's a convicted FELON!

Yes, he has served his time, but he needs to get a job that won't put him back
in a position to abuse power.

Davidson County should know better.

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Bill to bar felons as sheriffs advances

by Paul Johnson

2 months ago | 384 views | 1 | 3 | | |

TRIAD – A leader in the state House of Representatives said he expects quick passage of a bill that would allow voters to decide this fall whether to bar felons from serving as a county sheriff in North Carolina.

Rep. Hugh Holliman, D-Davidson and House majority leader, said the bill that passed in the state Senate Wednesday was assigned Thursday for consideration by a House committee.

"I think it will pass and move quickly through the House," Holliman said.

If the House approves the legislation as passed by the Senate, the constitutional amendment referendum issue would be set for the Nov. 2 general election ballot.

Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson and primary sponsor of Senate version of the legislation, originally introduced the bill during last year's session. But it failed to pass the General Assembly in 2009.

A primary motive for Bingham is to prevent former Davison County Sheriff Gerald Hege, who pleaded guilty to felony obstruction of justice counts six years ago, from becoming Davidson County sheriff again.

Hege made a comeback bid during the spring primary, but was beaten soundly for the Republican Party nomination by Sheriff David Grice May 4. Hege said following the primary defeat that he was retiring from politics.

Hege was among a handful of convicted felons running for sheriff seats throughout the state this year. All were defeated in the primaries.

If the constitutional amendment is approved by voters this fall, it would preclude Hege from ever running again for sheriff in North Carolina.

Bingham said he's asked sheriffs of both parties to contact their representatives in Raleigh to encourage a speedy House concurrence of the bill.

"I hope the House acts quickly. A lot of the legislators on the House side are going to be getting calls from their sheriffs to indicate their feelings about the importance of this," Bingham said Thursday.

pjohnson@hpe.com | 888-3528

At a glance

House Bill 1307 would give North Carolina voters the chance to decide in the Nov. 2 general election whether to amend the North Carolina Constitution to provide that no person convicted of a felony is eligible to be elected a county sheriff.

A Senate version of the legislation passed this week. The bill now awaits what's known as concurrence by the House.

If a majority of votes cast in the general election are in favor of the proposal, the State Board of Elections would certify the amendment to the N.C. Secretary of State. The constitutional amendment is effective upon certification.

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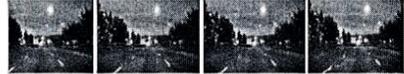
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« SSR995 wrote on Thursday, Jul 01 at 05:50 PM »

Vote no on the proposed amendment. If Bingham doesn't want someone elected as sheriff then Bingham must convince the voters to elect another candidate. Reading the article, it seems that the voters already opt not to have felons elected, since all convicted felons running for office in this years primaries were defeated.

Just the introduction of the bill is an insult to all voters in North Carolina. It is disappointing that the legislators that voted for the bill feel that we voters aren't smart enough to recognize worthy, as well as unworthy sheriff candidates. How would the legislators feel if we the people put the same felony restrictions on them?



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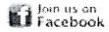
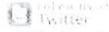


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The N.C. House of Representatives was expected to give final approval to legislation today that calls for a statewide vote in November on a constitutional amendment barring convicted felons from running for sheriff in North Carolina.

Approved last week in the N.C. Senate by a 46-1 vote, after House approval the bill will go to Gov. Beverly Perdue's desk where she's also expected to sign it, setting up the Nov. 2 constitutional amendment referendum.

If all goes as expected, Tarheel voters will see on the ballot:

[] For [] Against

Constitutional amendment providing that no person convicted of a felony may serve as Sheriff."

Earlier this year, we said this legislation, House Bill 1307, was all about former Davidson County Sheriff Gerald Hege. When we wrote that last spring, the former sheriff and convicted felon was poised to run in the May Republican primary for sheriff in Davidson County.

But no, we were told, this wasn't about just Hege because a handful of other convicted felons across North Carolina were running for sheriff's posts. It was about the notion that any convicted felon should be barred from seeking a sheriff's post.

OK, we'll concede that point; maybe Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson, and House Majority Leader Hugh Holliman, D-Davidson, both strong backers of the bill, and a host of others weren't out just to derail Hege's re-election chances or his ability to serve if he won the primary and general election.

But Hege's bid for re-election surely was derailed - by the voters of Davidson County. In virtually a three-candidate race, current Sheriff David Grice handily won the primary, whipping Hege by a 61 percent to 25 percent total. And in that handful of other sheriff's races around the state featuring felons, the voters said no to the felons there, too.

Give the voters in Davidson County and in those other areas across the state credit for letting their preferences be known, which in these cases were not the felons. So why does the Legislature even need to approve such a bill calling for this referendum? Let the voters in each county around the state decide whom they want to be their sheriff - felon or no felon. We don't place such prohibitions on other offices.

But since we're apparently going to have a referendum Nov. 2, let us go ahead and mark our ballot now:

[X] Against

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< Otis Nunn wrote on Tuesday, Jul 06 at 02:56 PM >



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HEGE PETITION: Protest group awaits hearing on former sheriff's bid to get old job back

by David Nivens

4 months ago | 1689 views | 16 | 6 | | |



Protesters line up with signs across the street from the Davidson County Board of Elections building in Lexington. SONNY HEDGECOCK | HPE

LEXINGTON – A group of Davidson County residents challenging former Davidson County sheriff Gerald Hege's bid to get his old job back could get a hearing next week.

The Davidson County Board of Elections dismissed the group's original complaints Tuesday because the challengers failed to give complete addresses and telephone numbers and because their affidavits did not say what they wanted officials to do about Hege's candidacy.

In their new affidavits, the challengers say they want Hege's name removed from the ballot. Early primary voting began April 15. Hege is one of three Republicans in the primary. The elections board is scheduled to meet next Monday.

"We do not want a convicted felon elected sheriff," said Melisia Prout, the president of Salvation's Way and a Forsyth County resident who organized the challenge. The challengers say Hege, a convicted felon, would be in direct violation of N.C. G.S. 14-415.1 if elected because he would have control over firearms in the sheriff's department.

"I respect their right to do this," Hege said after the dismissal. "That does not upset me. The president of the United States does not carry a firearm. He can blow up the world in about 2 minutes. And the governor as head of the National Guard does not carry a weapon. I see no big deal with it. As sheriff, I would have no need to grab a firearm every morning when I wake up."

Hege claims the complaint does not make sense and should have been handled before voting started.

"The state constitution allows me to run for office, and you can't change the constitution by protest," Hege said. "Time is running out."

State law allows for residents to challenge candidates no later than 10 business days after the close of the candidate's filing periods, but because the complaints were filed last week, the board determined they were a protest and not a challenge.

Prout, a former Davidson County resident, couldn't sign an affidavit.

"I do not support any candidate in this election," she said.

The board could hear the complaints at any time while voters cast their ballots, said County Attorney Chuck Frye.

"The statute allows an amended protest, and they can file that at any time," Frye said. "The board can consider this if the protest meets the legal requirements and then decide on when a hearing can be held. There is also a potential that the hearing may not be held until after the election."

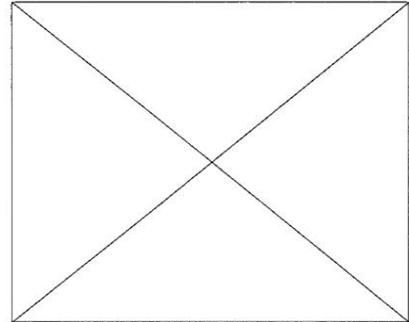
Hege resigned as sheriff in 2004 after pleading guilty to two felony counts of obstruction of justice for attempting to cover up money missing from the vice and narcotics unit of the sheriff's department.

dnivens@hpe.com | 888-3626

Legal challenge

-

Qualifications: Under state statute, grounds for filing a challenge or protest include a



candidate's constitutional fitness for office. According to state law, it's "unlawful for any person who has been convicted of a felony to purchase, own, possess or have in custody, care or control any firearm or any weapon of mass death and destruction."

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« [snuffbox1](#) wrote on Thursday, Apr 22 at 12:33 PM »

KNOW YOUR PROTESTORS:

1. Destroyed campaign signs at Hege headquarters and threw them out in the road.
2. Local follower
3. Lives in Randolph County

4. Girlfriend of man behind her. He is hiding because he is in arrears of \$30,000.00 in child support and is the son of woman #3.

5. Unknown, like #2, both hiding their face, for some unknown reason. Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm.

Ms. Pruitt, who is heading up this protest lives in Winston Salem. Isn't that ironic.

Just wanted the people of Davidson County and Gerald Hege opponents to know the kind of people that are out there protesting against him.

Names withheld.

Protest in your own county, and don't worry about Davidson County.

« [anonymous](#) wrote on Thursday, Apr 22 at 07:50 AM »

The protestors look like thugs.

« [nobeasley plumbers](#) wrote on Thursday, Apr 22 at 04:21 AM »

Guess ole beasley on the left HIDING kinda,thinks just because HEGE PUT HIM AWAY FOR A FEW ,HE CAN NOW GET HIS REVENGE, GRUDGE WOULD MAKE A GOOD MOVIE ,AND FOR SHAME him and his bro pulling down signs in Thomasville,such a fine couple of menguess id let my plumbing go before id have something like that round my place

« [Just Thinkin here](#) wrote on Wednesday, Apr 21 at 01:31 PM »

They way I see it, Hege breaks the law by just showing up to work the first day. That would be a hoot. This is where someone should call crime stoppers and get the reward.

« [Revots..](#) wrote on Wednesday, Apr 21 at 12:40 PM »



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Article 54A.

The Felony Firearms Act.

§ 14-415.1. Possession of firearms, etc., by felon prohibited.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person who has been convicted of a felony to purchase,

own, possess, or have in his custody, care, or control any firearm or any weapon of mass death

and destruction as defined in G.S. 14-288.8.

...The argument could be made that by simply being sheriff Hege would have firearm's "in his custody, care, or control...", whether he carried a firearm on his person or not.

« Just thinkin here wrote on Wednesday, Apr 21 at 10:35 AM »

The guy on the left is Elvis, I saw him in Denton yesterday. The gal with three legs would be fun to have around at parties.

The election should go forth. If Hege is elected, he will need to consider forfeiting. The moment he takes office, Hege will be charged with a felony and be arrested. He will be punished as a class G felon. I am thinking he will be picked up by state troopers or U.S. Marshals

"When a person is charged under this section, records of prior convictions of any offense,

whether in the courts of this State, or in the courts of any other state or of the United States,

shall be admissible in evidence for the purpose of proving a violation of this section."

http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/pdf/ByArticle/Chapter_14_415.1.pdf

Let me know what you guys think.

« Revots... wrote on Wednesday, Apr 21 at 09:08 AM »

The fact remains - YOU want a Convicted Felon to be YOUR Sheriff, yet you have the nerve to talk about other people being ashamed.

Hege is a criminal. Period. End of discussion.

« snuffbox1 wrote on Wednesday, Apr 21 at 09:00 AM »

My point again, you will never admit a mistake!

YOU ONLY SEE WHAT YOU WANT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

End of discussion!

« Revots... wrote on Wednesday, Apr 21 at 08:06 AM »

The fact remains - YOU want a Convicted Felon to be YOUR Sheriff, yet you have the nerve to talk about other people being ashamed.

Hege is a criminal. Period. End of discussion.

« snuffbox1 wrote on Wednesday, Apr 21 at 07:54 AM »

Typical, my point is that you were wrong about the picture and quickly tried to intimidate me by calling me out, and you will not admit it, you just cannot see. Have you ever admitted to being wrong. Do you disagree with everyone? Are you disgruntled? Cheer up, smile, enjoy life.

I can vote for anyone I want, can't you? Does that make me prejudice? C'mon Stover, you are not always right, just because you think you are.

Please!!!!

« Revots... wrote on Wednesday, Apr 21 at 07:42 AM »

Like I said -You see what you want.

The fact remains - YOU want a Convicted Felon to be YOUR Sheriff, yet you have the nerve to talk about other people being ashamed.

Hege is a criminal. Period. End of discussion.

« snuffbox1 wrote on Wednesday, Apr 21 at 07:37 AM »

says "darn typos"

« snuffbox1 wrote on Wednesday, Apr 21 at 07:22 AM »

Revots, Maybe YOU better look again. I see 6 people, a man with red head cover on hiding behind a woman. Could you pick them out of a line up? This tells me the same thing that you are accusing me of. Wipe off those rose colored glasses and look again. Drink your coffee and clear your vision.

Wait, maybe the lady has 4 legs, like you buddy say, "my bad".

« Revots... wrote on Wednesday, Apr 21 at 07:10 AM »

5 people standing in a line, you can see 4 of their faces...That tells me something,snuffbox. It tells me you see what you want to see.

The only people who should be ashamed are the ones who vote for a convicted felon to be their Sheriff.

« snuffbox1 wrote on Wednesday, Apr 21 at 06:21 AM »

These people in the picture that are protesting Gerald Hege for running for Sheriff, seemed to be ashamed of what they are doing by hiding his face behind their signs. That tells me something. It makes you want to say Mnummmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm!

« jake555 wrote on Wednesday, Apr 21 at 06:19 AM »

This guy is an ego maniac and does not deserve to an elected official no matter what the job. Davidson County will be the laughing stock of the US if he is elected.

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Former Sheriff Hege still has staunch supporters

by Darrick Ignasiak

11 months ago | 2665 views | 25 | 10 | 10

LEXINGTON – Local residents who were eating lunch Tuesday at the Barbecue Center in Lexington said they have mixed feelings about former Davidson County Sheriff Gerald Hege possibly trying to get his old job back.

Signs have been popping up in Davidson County in support of Hege for sheriff. Hege said Tuesday, while at his home, that he is "testing the waters" by placing the signs supporting his candidacy in the county. An announcement on his potential candidacy will be made in November, he said.

"I don't believe everything I heard whenever he was convicted," said Shannon Queen of High Point. "I don't believe it. I think he pushed some of the wrong buttons he shouldn't have pushed. I don't think he made mistakes. I think he p.....d off the wrong people."

Queen said he supported the former sheriff's controversial tactics, such as making inmates wear color-coordinated jumpsuits to identify their offense. Queen said he had his license checked by Hege at one of the former sheriff's checkpoints.

Lexington resident Ralph Jackson said he doesn't support Hege, but he believes the former sheriff will be re-elected.

"I believe he would get elected because there is too many people who like him in Lexington," Jackson said. "I heard two years ago he was going to run."

Jackson said he is concerned about Hege not being able to carry a gun as sheriff of Davidson County. Under state and federal law, a convicted felon can't carry a gun.

"He is a crook," Jackson alleged. "He has done what he did one time. He will do it again."

Sonny Grooms, an Ellerbe resident, said he hopes Hege gets to be sheriff again.

"I'd support him because he was doing good work, just like the soldier boots and all," Grooms said. "The only thing I know, he was running the sheriff's office like criminals needed to be handled. I know he enforced the laws. That was his job."

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« Laughing at ya DC wrote on Tuesday, Apr 20 at 01:59 PM »

From reading all the comments it seems to me that the money that disappeared has been distributed to his watchdogs...LOL Don't you all know that DC and Hege was the laughing stock of the USA and now we are still laughing at you especially if you reelect him... Why Don't all the criminals file and run for office in Davidson County you all can have a family reunion there, and to think that they made the show in Mayberry LOL they should have made it in DC..HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

« HegeWillBeSheriff wrote on Wednesday, Nov 25 at 10:36 AM »

One Question Site Survey
YOU WILL NOT LEAVE THIS SITE

How likely are you to download a coupon for Macaroni Grill, Wanchai Ferry, and Good Earth meals?

SELECT ONE ANSWER

Definitely will

Probably will

May or may not

Probably will not

Definitely will not

VOTE TO SEE RESULTS

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Hege did his job as Sheriff, GRICE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE PEOPLE! He never has, I've heard from a few people as long as Grice is in office, they aren't worried about any drug dealers in their family going to jail, because according to them "Grice Will Allow it" Hege wouldn't allow it & he would be SURE to bust them. Hege wasn't afraid to push buttons with anyone while he was sheriff & that is why he is where he is now, they knew hege was out to do his job & they started to get worried and had to get him out of there. That's the ONLY reason Hege is where he's at, he was a good sheriff, HE'S GOT MY VOTE. & hopefully if you're going to do the right thing you'll put hege back in office!

& for the people running their mouth that aren't in davidson county; why are you even complaining or running your mouth when you aren't even in OUR county! STAY OUT OF IT :]

« RANDY/G./GRIMKNOTME wrote on Tuesday, Nov 10 at 03:32 PM »



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« Trialbyjustice wrote on Sunday, Nov 08 at 11:43 AM »

I have been in Law Enforcement, and did work in Davidson County while Hege was Sheriff. When speaking with him he referred to everyone as "seumbags" and Drug Dealers. He did favors for the ones that supported him even if it meant making up charges. He had a so called "rat" Ron Richardson to plant listening devices so that he knew what people were saying about him. If Hege was doing his job and keeping watch over his own hen house then he would have known about the 3 Deputy's that were charged and convicted and went to prison. If Hege was so much a part of drug enforcement, how did he not know what Vice was doing. I know for a fact by speaking with the charged officers that Hege was involved in this so called circle. They would rob the drug dealers, take their drugs and cash and then resell the dope for more cash. The criminal Justice and training standards of NC which regulates police employment and background approvals will automatically reject someone from being employed if they have been convicted as a Felon. This would be the same thing as if you had someone that molested a 10 year old girl running for Sheriff. Now does the type of crime dictate the persons rights? Hege was convicted of a Felony, not given his rights to covenet vote as a US citizen but yet you want this man back in office. How pathetic can you people be. Would you vote for the President of the united states for committing treason against the US. I would hope not. I am glad that I do not live in Davidson County, it has been the laugh of the state. Davidson County needs a Sheriff more like Sam Page in Rocking County. He believes in letting his Deputies do the work while he concentrates on the administration of the department. How can you run a department efficiently if you are concentrating on painting jail cells pink with crying teddy bears and driving spider cars. I believe that he needs to be shipped overseas to Iraq or Afghanistan to see what it's like to really fight someone who is out to kill you. I am thankful for the men and women in our military who stand up and fight for our freedom, not ridiculously take it away like hege plans on doing. One last point, I guess since Hege will not be able to carry a gun anymore he will carry his walking tall stick around. Has anyone checked his home for weapons, as a convicted felon he is not supposed to have one. that's kind of stupid for a sheriff not to be able to protect himself but only with a stick. I hope that he doesn't tick off any of the gun toteing drug dealers that know where he lives it will be like shooting fish in a barrel.

Yea he can vote

OH this for all of you

Know Your Voting Rights

STEPS FOR FORMER FELONS

If you are convicted of a felony in North Carolina, you lose your citizenship rights, including the right to vote. However, after completing all terms of your sentence (including parole, probation and restitution), you do not have to do anything to have your citizenship rights, including your voting rights, restored. Those rights are automatically restored.

If you have completed all parts of your sentence for a felony conviction or have been pardoned, you are eligible to vote in North Carolina. In order to vote, follow the steps listed below.

IN ADDITION TO THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW, YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER AND VOTE ON THE SAME DAY, IN PERSON, AT A ONE-STOP VOTING SITE DURING THE "EARLY VOTING" PERIOD BEFORE EACH ELECTION (BUT NOT ON ELECTION DAY ITSELF). To learn about Same-Day Registration, go to: [Link](#)

STEP 1: REGISTER TO VOTE

» Former convicted felons must fill out a voter registration form even if you were registered before your conviction. You can register at any point after completing all parts of your sentence.

» You can register to vote by mail. Get a mail-in voter registration form by writing or calling your County Board of Elections office, visiting a public library, or downloading it online at [Link](#).

» On the form, it asks "where you now live." Use your home address (not a post office box). A postcard confirming your registration will be sent there.

» Mail in the completed form, with copies of any documents it requests, so the County Board of Elections receives it at least 25 days before the election.

» The County Board of Elections will send you a postcard, telling you which precinct you will vote in and where you can go to vote.

STEP 2: VOTE

» You can vote at the polling place listed on the card or by absentee ballot.

» For directions on how to vote by absentee ballot, see Step 2 below under "Steps for Misdemeanants."

For information about voter registration, absentee ballots, or how to locate your County Board of Elections, contact:

« Justice Served wrote on Sunday, Nov 08 at 12:00 PM »

I just wanted to make a comment about what Chris coble hit on. The sheriffs department is responsible for submitting crime statistics to the SBI for a statewide database management system. It doesn't take a dummy to realize that the statistics are not going to go down 53%. You would have to look at the overall arrest and conviction ratio's not just the arrests. Hege was the worlds worst for making arrests and not getting convictions. That's why out of County Attorneys loved cases in Davidson County. Hege was a great Politician and could make people believe anything. He had his department intimidated, and look at the turn over rate the department had since he took office. Look at the history of the Davidson County Sheriffs Department and find anywhere where 3 deputies and the Sheriff were charged and removed from office for committing Felony's. We need a Sheriff like Jaybird McCrary, he was for the citizens of Davidson County and ran a tight ship. His turn over rate was low and morale was good. Also check out why Hege was fired from the Sheriffs Department when he was a Deputy. There have been stories where he was given keys to certain restaraunts to keep a check on. He would go inside and steal meat from their freezer and put it in the back of the patrol car. This was verified by one of his riding partners. Would you trust him with the keys to your home. You might as well if he is elected Sheriff again. This message is brought to you by "Stupid is what Stupid Does"

« Trialbyjustice wrote on Sunday, Nov 08 at 11:43 AM »

I have been in Law Enforcement, and did work in Davidson County while Hege was Sheriff. When speaking with him he referred to everyone as "scumbags" and Drug Dealers. He did favors for the ones that supported him even if it meant making up charges. He had a so called "rat" Ron Richardson to plant listening devices so that he knew what people were saying about him. If Hege was doing his job and keeping watch over his own hen house then he would have known about the 3 Deputy's that were charged and convicted and went to prison. If Hege was so much a part of drug enforcement, how did he not know what Vice was doing. I know for a fact by speaking with the charged officers that Hege was involved in this so called circle. They would rob the drug dealers, take their drugs and cash and then resell the dope for more cash. The criminal Justice and training standards of NC which regulates police employment and background approvals will automatically reject someone from being employed if they have been convicted as a Felon. This would be the same thing as if you had someone that molested a 10 year old girl running for Sheriff. Now does the type of crime dictate the persons rights? Hege was convicted of a Felony, not given his rights to even vote as a US citizen but yet you want this man back in office. How pathetic can you people be. Would you vote for the President of the united states for committing treason against the US. I would hope not. I am glad that I do not live in Davidson County, it has been the laugh of the state. Davidson County needs a Sheriff more like Sam Page in Rocking County. He believes in letting his Deputies do the work while he concentrates on the administration of the department. How can you run a department efficiently if you are concentrating on painting jail cells pink with crying teddy bears and driving spider cars. I believe that he needs to be shipped overseas to Iraq or Afghanistan to see what it's like to really fight someone who is out to kill you. I am thankful for the men and women in our military who stand up and fight for our freedom, not ridiculously take it away like hege plans on doing. One last point, I guess since Hege will not be able to carry a gun anymore he will carry his walking tall stick around. Has anyone checked his home for weapons, as a convicted felon he is not supposed to have one. that's kind of stupid for a sheriff not to be able to protect himself but only with a stick. I hope that he doesn't tick off any of the gun toteing drug dealers that know where he lives it will be like shooting fish in a barrell.

« GRIMKNOTME wrote on Thursday, Oct 29 at 07:56 AM »

Randy G.

Thomasville

>QUOTE<

(« BillyBob86 wrote on Thursday, Oct 22 at 03:30 PM »Officers say statistics were `fixed`

By RACHEL LEONARD

The Dispatch

... Sheriff Hege is `big` about keeping the crime statistics down low," said Lt. Tony Roberson. "I know that Sheriff Hege tells Capt. (Chris) Coble that he wants the numbers low and Coble passes that message down to me."

Coble, who was responsible for compiling crime statistics to submit to the State Bureau of Investigation, said Hege asked him to "fix" numbers that were too high.

"Sheriff Hege has on occasion also told me that if I could not fix the numbers, I would be looking for another job," Coble said. "In response to my fear and worry about Sheriff Hege's reaction to higher crime statistics I began to research ways in which the numbers could be evaluated and reclassified so that there would not be a negative effect on the crime stats.")

MOSTLY SOUNDS LIKE HEARSAY WHICH AINT DIDDLY IN COURT

« RANDY G. wrote on Thursday, Oct 29 at 07:46 AM »

« BillyBob86 wrote on Thursday, Oct 22 at 03:37 PM »

How quickly we forget ...

...From a 2003 newstory on www.freerepublic.com

"Sheriff of Davidson County since 1994, Hege is accused of stealing \$6,200 from an undercover drug buy fund and using part of it to pay for reelection celebrations in 1998 and 2002. He is also accused of blocking an investigation into the disappearance of money seized by his office during a criminal investigation. And he is accused of conspiring with a former county maintenance director to conduct surveillance of law enforcement officers investigating him. Additionally, Davidson County District Attorney Gary Frank, in moving to have Hege removed from office, accuses him of a pattern of intimidation and threats against deputies he believed were cooperating in investigations against him."

DONT NEED TO SAY MUCH HERE AS YOU SAID ACUSED

AND IT SEEMS Gary Frank had it in for HEGE FOR AWHILE

« Randy G. wrote on Thursday, Oct 29 at 07:43 AM »

QUOTE.....

« midniter wrote on Monday, Oct 26 at 05:06 PM »

I know for a fact that Hege was getting money under the table from certain drug bust & i bought several cars & hot rod trucks that was seized in drug raids from mexicans immigrants.The good thing about these nice automobiles that they didn't go through the proper channels on seized vehicles & you could buy them at a real good price.I know for sure i won't be voting for no crook to put on the force that can set up anyone he doesn't like.You look at the people they had to turn loose & charges dropped because of how crooked they were while he was sheriff,and not counting the law suits that are still against the county while he was sheriff.Do we really want someone in the sheriff office that has no respect for the law or the people that pay his salary i don't think so.He'd just soon to set you up to take a fall for something that he did or his deputies.I hope we have come to our senses & not put back a walking tall want-a-be in sheriff office again.I think grice has done a great job considering what kind of mess he was left with.

So if there is even remotely a chance that >QUOTE< (i bought several cars & hot rod trucks that was seized in drug raids from mexicans immigrants.) SHOULDNT YOU TURN YOURSELF IN WITH PROOF AND PAY FOR ALLEGED CRIME .

AND QUOTE ...

(You look at the people they had to turn loose & charges dropped because of how crooked they were while he was sheriff)HATS USUALLY CALLED PLEA BARGINING OR A LESSER CRIMINAL TURNING IN A BIGGER FISH .THIS GOES ON ALL OVER THE USA NOT JUST IN DAVIDSON COUNTY .

« midniter wrote on Monday, Oct 26 at 05:06 PM »

I know for a fact that Hege was getting money under the table from certain drug bust & i bought several cars & hot rod trucks that was seized in drug raids from mexicans immigrants.The good thing about these nice automobiles that they didn't go through the proper channels on seized vehicles & you could buy them at a real good price.I know for sure i won't be voting for no crook to put on the force that can set up anyone he doesn't like.You look at the people they had to turn loose & charges dropped because of how crooked they were while he was sheriff,and not counting the law suits that are still against the county while he was sheriff.Do we really want someone in the sheriff office that has no respect for the law or the people that pay his salary i don't think so.He'd just soon to set you up to take a fall for something that he did or his deputies.I hope we have come to our senses & not put back a walking tall want-a-be in sheriff office again.I think grice has done a great job considering what kind of mess he was left with.

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« BillyBob86 wrote on Thursday, Oct 22 at 03:30 PM »

bevshabull, you dont know how WRONG you are! -And you ARE a fool if you vote for Hege.

HIS NUMBERS WERE FIXED TO FOOL PEOPLE LIKE YOU!!

See the news story below

Officers say statistics were 'fixed'

By RACHEL LEONARD

The Dispatch

Published: Saturday, September 20, 2003 at 8:33 a.m.

Last Modified: Saturday, September 20, 2003 at 12:00 a.m.

When Sheriff Gerald Hege took office in 1994, about 1,000 burglaries were reported to the sheriff's office every year. By 1998, that number had fallen to about 400. Last year, it was 33.

Forcible rape also declined from about 20 reported incidents per year in the mid-1990s to three in 1997. No rapes have been reported to the sheriff's office since 1999. And recent statistics show aggravated assaults - which numbered more than 150 in 1994 - fell to only five for the entire year of 2000, although they have since risen.

Statistics such as these allowed Hege in 2001 to claim a 62 percent drop in crime since he took office. Hege attributed the decrease to his high-profile image and aggressive style of law enforcement, but affidavits from Hege's top officers now say the sheriff ordered them to manipulate the numbers.

"... Sheriff Hege is 'big' about keeping the crime statistics down low," said Lt. Tony Roberson. "I know that Sheriff Hege tells Capt. (Chris) Coble that he wants the numbers low and Coble passes that message down to me."

Coble, who was responsible for compiling crime statistics to submit to the State Bureau of Investigation, said Hege asked him to "fix" numbers that were too high.

"Sheriff Hege has on occasion also told me that if I could not fix the numbers, I would be looking for another job," Coble said. "In response to my fear and worry about Sheriff Hege's reaction to higher crime statistics I began to research ways in which the numbers could be evaluated and reclassified so that there would not be a negative effect on the crime stats."

« bevshabull@yahoo.com wrote on Thursday, Oct 22 at 09:45 AM »

I also live in Davidson County and I WILL vote for Hege again. I believe the people who do not like him are probably for crimnals getting by with their crimes. I believe that what he did is no worse than a lot of other people do.....and NO, I am NOT a fool. What kind of person wants crime to be permitted? They are the ones who are fools. Hege has my vote and my family's votes.

« BillyBob86 wrote on Thursday, Oct 22 at 09:09 AM »

Im a Davidson County resident and I'll never vote for Hege.

The only reason why he had as many drug busts as he did was because his office didnt follow proper procedures. After one arrest, the criminals would get off on a technicality only for Hege to go out and arrest them again. When Hege was in office, Defense Attorneys LOVED coming to Davidson County!

Not only was Hege shuffled off to jail, but before that AND under HIS watch, several of his deputies were arrested for drugs and extortion.

In my opinion, he is as bad as the criminals he claims to be going after.

This ego-maniac should never be allowed to wear a badge again. If there isnt a state law that prohibits felons from running for public office, there should be.

« RANDY G. wrote on Monday, Oct 19 at 04:55 PM »

« pissed off wrote on Friday, Oct 16 at 11:28 PM »

how the hell can a felon be sheriff. not to mention he is and always will be a crook

NO law against a felon running for sheriff. And always aint every time , if a cop stops you for speeding and lets you off with a warning is he a crook or are you ?

« RANDY G. POSTED BELOW wrote on Monday, Oct 19 at 04:25 PM »

LOOK BELOW

« anonymous wrote on Monday, Oct 19 at 04:24 PM »

« DAAAA wrote on Friday, Oct 16 at 11:33 PM »

WHAT IS WROG WITH YOU DAMN FOOLS

The only fool i see is the one that cant spell WRONG !

AT LEAST HE ADMITTED WHAT HE DID , WHAT ABOUT THE ONES THAT ARE WORRIED !

« pissed off wrote on Friday, Oct 16 at 11:28 PM »

how the hell can a felon be sheriff. not to mention he is and always will be a crook

What general statue says that he cannot ?

« DAAAA wrote on Friday, Oct 16 at 11:33 PM »

WHAT IS WROG WITH YOU DAMN FOOLS

« pissed off wrote on Friday, Oct 16 at 11:28 PM »

how the hell can a felon be sheriff. not to mention he is and always will be a crook

« Randy G. wrote on Sunday, Sep 20 at 02:19 PM »

« revots wrote on Sunday, Sep 20 at 06:37 AM »

Headline should read "Former Sheriff Hege Still Has STUPID Supporters"

Sounds like someone seen to much of the pink walls.....

« revots wrote on Sunday, Sep 20 at 06:37 AM »

Headline should read "Former Sheriff Hege Still Has STUPID Supporters"

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Answers: How Can a Convicted Felon Run for Office?

Posted on 23 February 2010 | Jennifer Wig



From MGNS

by Media General News Service

Q. How can a convicted felon run for office? – D.S.

A. They aren't able to do so everywhere – many states do bar felons from running for or holding office. But that's not the case for federal offices or for offices in North Carolina.

The U.S. Constitution sets out the requirements for a person to run for federal offices, and the N.C. Constitution sets out the requirements to run for state offices. Neither says that a felony conviction disqualifies a person from serving in office.

For example, the U.S. Constitution says that to run for senator, a person must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen for at least nine years, and an inhabitant of the state that elects him or her. As a report from the Congressional Research Service says, "Once a person meets the three constitutional qualifications of age, citizenship and inhabitancy in the State when elected, that person, if duly elected, is constitutionally 'qualified' to serve in Congress, even if a convicted felon."

The N.C. Constitution does say that a person is disqualified from running for office if they cannot vote in the election, and felons lose the right to vote until their citizenship rights are restored. Under state law, citizenship rights are automatically restored once all the terms of a felon's sentence, including probation or parole, are completed.

An example of this is Gerald Hege, the former sheriff of Davidson County who pleaded guilty in 2004 to obstruction of justice. He completed his probation in 2007, so he was eligible to file this year to run again for sheriff, which he has.

Leave a Reply

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Mail (will not be published) (required)

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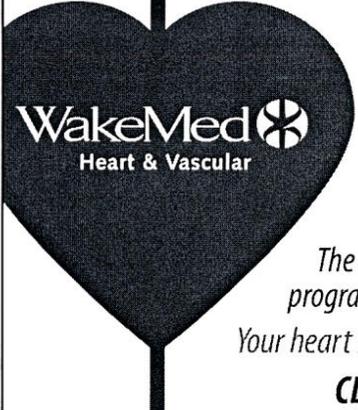
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Coshocton County sheriff Timothy L. Rogers talks about the arrest of Joseph Sean McVey during an interview @ his office in Coshocton, Ohio, Mon., 4-26-10. McVey was arrested Sun. & charged with going armed in terror of the public after he was found w/ a sidearm near a North Carolina airport shortly after Air Force One departed (AP Photo/Paul Vernon)

A Possible Ban; Some NC Legislatures are Pushing to Ban Convicted Felons from Running for Office

May 9th, 2010 3:48 am ET

By Cynthia Baley, Winston-Salem City Hall Examiner

The Primary Elections have now passed.

Did you know that according to Fox8, there were four (4) convicted felons that ran for Sheriff, in North Carolina? Now that the results are in from the Primary Elections, all four (4) of the candidates running for Sheriff, lost! One included (around the Piedmont Triad), was Gerald Hege.

In a recent article written, it was noted that a petition to prevent Gerald Hege from running for Sheriff, was denied. However, it was also noted that an affidavit has been submitted, noting that a Sheriff has to carry a concealed weapon. With that being said, convicted felons are not allowed to carry a concealed weapon. Therefore, how can a convicted felon run for Sheriff?

During the time of the Primary Elections (when the affidavit was submitted), it was still under review.

The Winston-Salem Journal has reported that "Sen. Stan Bingham said he'll continue pushing the bill even though the men lost. The Republican proposed his bill in anticipation that Gerald Hege would run for his old job as Davidson County sheriff".

In March, the *North Carolina Sheriff's Association* voted unanimously ~



In support of Republican Senator, Stan Bingham's bill, to ban felons from running for Sheriff (in North Carolina).

How do you feel about a ban against convicted felons running for office, in North Carolina?

<http://www.myfox8.com/news/politics/elections/>

Tags: ban, Bill, possible, prevent, Republican, senator

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Bill gets key help: Sheriffs' group favors keeping felons out of race

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By Paul Garber JOURNAL REPORTER Published: March 18, 2010

Members of the N.C. Sheriffs' Association have voted to support a bill in the N.C. Senate that would prohibit convicted felons from running for sheriff.

No such restriction exists now, so nothing bars such candidates as Gerald Hege from running. Hege was the sheriff of Davidson County until he pleaded guilty to felony counts, and served his sentence. He is running for his old position.

The vote of support came yesterday during a meeting of the association in Wrightsville Beach. Those present voted unanimously to back the bill, said the group's president, James L. Knight of Edgecombe County.

Knight said that the association's vote wasn't aimed at any particular candidates, and he pointed out that Hege isn't the only convicted felon running for sheriff in North Carolina this year. The issue, he said, is a matter of trust for the office.

"We want the office to be a place of integrity," he said. "We're trying to let people know that we stand for what is good."

Knight said he didn't know of any felons who had been elected sheriff, nor could anyone at the meeting when asked.

The bill was sponsored in February 2009 by state Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson, but it never came up for a vote.

Bingham said he introduced the bill in anticipation of a potential Hege run for the office. At that time, Hege had not announced that he was running.

Bingham said that the bill stalled because it would take an amendment to the state's constitution for it to pass, which would involve a long and complicated path.

He said he hasn't given up on the bill, and is looking for ways to ban felons from running for sheriff without tinkering with the constitution. He said he will try to revive the bill in the next session of the legislature in May, but even if it passed, it is unlikely that it would take effect in time for the 2010 general election in November.

Bingham said that part of the reason that the bill is needed is because current guidelines put more restrictions on hiring deputies than electing sheriffs.

"It's a bit hypocritical that a sheriff can be a convicted felon but he can't hire one to be a deputy," Bingham said.

Hege said that Bingham came up with the idea in an attempt to keep him from challenging incumbent Sheriff David Grice.

"He's trying to change the North Carolina Constitution to stop one man," Hege said.

Grice, who did not attend the sheriffs' association meeting, declined to comment.

In September 2003, Hege was indicted on 15 felony counts -- five counts of obtaining property by false pretense, five counts of embezzlement by a public officer, two counts of common-law obstruction of justice, and one count each of endeavor to intercept oral communication, aiding and abetting an endeavor to intercept oral communication, and aiding and abetting obtaining property by false pretense.

The charges were the result of a sweeping investigation of the sheriff's office that included affidavits from more than 20 sheriff's officers and staff members. Hege ultimately pleaded guilty to two felony counts of obstruction of justice and was

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Jeri Young
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For Jeri's story

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JERI YOUNG
news enterprise team
leader for the
Winston-Salem Journal

removed from office.

But he is not the only felon running for sheriff. For example, Robert E. "Nub" Taylor, a former clerk of court in Avery County, is making his second run for the office after his 2006 candidacy ended in his arrest. According to records when Taylor filed for office, he was convicted of obstruction of justice on May 1, 2006 and served several months in prison. His citizenship was restored after his release in November 2006, said Sheila Ollis, Avery County's elections director.

And in Washington County, Stanley James has filed to run for sheriff despite a felony conviction for embezzlement.

Hege said he was unaware that other felons were running.

"I guess I started something," he joked.

He said that the law that allows people vote and run for office once their debt to society is paid should remain.

The N.C. Sheriffs' Association, which is based in Raleigh, is made up of the sheriffs from the state's 100 counties.

Hege has had issues with the organization in the past. At one point when he was sheriff, he was the only sheriff in the state who was not a member of the organization.

Hege said that the organization used his likeness to raise money when he was sheriff. That confused people who thought that they were donating to him, he said.

pgarber@wsjournal.com.

727-7327

Reader Comments

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Posted by (rockyroad65) on 03/18/2010 at 05:02 am.

Hege has issues with most everyone but himself!! Integrity in the office is needed and Hege doesn't have it!!!!

[Report Inappropriate Comments](#)

Posted by (Stormy) on 03/18/2010 at 06:35 am.

You can't legislate integrity!

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Posted by (lawman) on 03/18/2010 at 07:41 am.

The other Sheriff's don't even want him. I can't believe the citizens of Davidson County would be stupid enough to vote for this crook. I also cannot believe Hege would be stupid enough to run and continue to embarrass himself, his family and the good people of Davidson County.

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Posted by (JohnG) on 03/18/2010 at 08:36 am.

I disagree with the idea. If a person has served their debt to society they should be able to hold public office. This is especially important in a day when we have so many malum prohibitum felonies.

If they are going to change the state constitution then they should change it to restrict voting. If Hege wins it is not because there was not a law preventing him from running but because the citizens of Davidson County are some of the biggest idiots on the planet. And that would be the case every time they vote. Their votes would always be a stupid decision. Restricting the ability to make stupid decisions in one small area makes little sense and will not accomplish much.

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Posted by (BlessednotLucky) on 03/18/2010 at 09:08 am.

The government is so corrupt already no amount of legislation will change it. What is needed is a return to moral standards based on the truth. We have been sliding down the slippery slope of relativism for many years and have come near the point of no return.

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Let's pray for those in authority to become convicted in their hearts to begin doing what is right for this country. That's our only Hope for real Change.

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Posted by (staballoy) on 03/18/2010 at 09:28 am.

It seems perfectly logical to me that a felon cannot become a sworn law enforcement officer, so I favor the legislation. If paying a debt to society is all that is needed to serve, then the case could be made for Ponzi swindlers to become SEC officials or tax cheats to become IRS agents. Taking it further into absurdity, a sex offender who has paid his dues can make the case to become a teacher. No thanks.

In Hege's case, he's driving around in a '94 Metro and that worn out "spider car." What he's really campaigning for is a paycheck and a new company car. Davidson Cty voters favoring him might as well vote for one of those costumed buffoons on the professional wrestling circuit.

Report Inappropriate Comments

Posted by (JohnG) on 03/18/2010 at 09:41 am.

@staballoy it used to be that you could pay your debt to society. Now everyone is branded as a criminal for life. It makes the righteous folks feel even better about themselves.

Of course tax cheats can still become the Treasury Secretary. The laws prohibiting convicted criminals from having certain jobs only apply to the average man. If you are a big enough criminal then you have a place in the highest levels of government or corporations. And that difference in application is reason enough to oppose such laws.

By the way the absurdity is in letting people out of jail if they are such a threat to society. If a convicted felon is like a dog that bit your child and can never be trusted again then the more reasonable solution is to kill them, not to jail them for a while and release them.

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Posted by (INMYHUMBLEOPINION) on 03/18/2010 at 10:09 am.

@Rockyroad65. If "integrity in office" was, as you said, a requirement to be in an elected office, 99% of the politicians who hold elected offices today would never have been elected.

With regard to ex-sheriff Gerald Hege, at least we know he is a crook and has no integrity. With many of our city and county officials, and officials in Washington, they kept their lack of integrity a secret until after they. It's too bad that voters do not know more about the personal values, and the lack of personal integrity, of the politicians they vote for.

Most politicians just tell the same old lies over and over until the voters believe the politicians are telling the truth.

In my humble opinion.

Report Inappropriate Comments

Posted by (DChunter) on 03/18/2010 at 11:40 am.

Constitution is just a Piece of paper to politicians as WE THE PEOPLE will learn with the HCR voted Sunday.

There is no need for a state constitution amendment, Majority Rules. I doubt there is a majority that would vote for a felon as Sheriff? Of course there are some felons with more integrity than some unconvicted citizens.

Few if any politicians have integrity, a Plane ride with the POTUS converts a Constitutionalist into a Statist Totalitarian as we've learned with Kucinich.

Character is of more value than integrity, a person with *Charcter* does whats right even if no one is watching.

Apparently voters are not trusted if this amendment is needed? A convicted felon sheriff would be the joke of [any county USA] without a gun.

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Posted by (username1967) on 03/18/2010 at 02:10 pm.

If you've paid your debt to society, why should a person not be allowed to be sheriff? The bill is paid.

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1 2 > Last Page: 2

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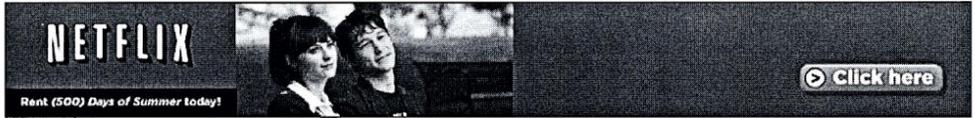
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NC sheriffs urge ban on felons running

Want General Assembly to approve the bill

Updated: Friday, 19 Mar 2010, 11:10 AM EDT
Published : Friday, 19 Mar 2010, 11:10 AM EDT

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH, N.C. (AP) - The group representing North Carolina sheriffs says it wants the General Assembly to approve a bill to prevent convicted felons from running for sheriff.

Members of the North Carolina Sheriff's Association meeting this week in Wrightsville Beach reaffirmed their support for a measure in the state Senate to amend the North Carolina constitution.

The association says its standards bar convicted felons from serving as deputy sheriffs and says the same should apply to a constitutional office such as sheriff. Convicted felons are allowed to vote and run for office once they have had their rights restored by completing their punishments.

The Winston-Salem Journal reported at least three convicted felons are running for sheriff this year, including former Davidson County Sheriff Gerald Hege.



Should convicted felons be able to run for sheriff? NC voters will decide Nov. 2

Associated Press
2010-06-30 21:33:58

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Voters in six counties decided in May they didn't want former lawbreakers as their sheriffs. Now voters across North Carolina are poised to get a chance this November to remove them permanently from the candidate pool for the centuries-old office.

The House unanimously agreed Wednesday with the Senate's proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit convicted felons from serving as sheriff. The chamber will need to approve the language one more time Thursday before it shows up on the Nov. 2 ballot. A majority of voters would have to agree to the amendment before it's embossed in the constitution.

Six candidates for sheriff who are known felons ran unsuccessfully during the May 4 primary election, including ex-Washington County Sheriff Stanley James and former Davidson County Sheriff Gerald Hege. They all lost. But they shouldn't be qualified to run to begin with, said Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson, the bill's chief proponent.

"This shouldn't have to be, especially if you've got a CEO of a large law enforcement agency," said Bingham, who worked hard to get Hege defeated in May. "It's a little bit different being a felon and getting a job at Hardee's, or somewhere else."

The North Carolina Constitution has few restrictions for people running for elected office. There are minimum ages to serve as governor or in the Legislature. Judges, district attorneys and the attorney general must be duly "authorized to practice law in the courts of this state." Convicted felons can seek office — including sheriff — once their rights of citizenship are restored, usually when they have completed their punishment.

The North Carolina Sheriffs Association has pushed for the restriction on the office, arguing it's a matter of ethics for a county's top elected law enforcement officer to follow the law. The association's standards already bar convicted felons from serving as deputy sheriffs.

A convicted felon also is barred from owning a gun, which could put a sheriff at a disadvantage, especially in small departments where the sheriff is more than an administrator, said Rep. Dan Ingle, R-Alamance, before the bill was tentatively approved in the House by a vote of 112-0.

While the association isn't aware of felon being elected a sheriff, Edgecombe County Sheriff James Knight, said he believes the large number of felons who ran last month has helped lawmakers take up an issue the association has pushed for years.

"It's sort of hit home and reality set in once they saw the people that were running for sheriff," said Knight, the association's president.

Association lobbyist Eddie Caldwell said he knew of no opposition to the bill. But at least one of the primary candidates — David Morrow of Cleveland County — said there's no need to change the constitution because voters are already making their feelings known when they cast ballots in the sheriff's races. Morrow has run for sheriff four times and received 26 percent of the vote in May's Republican primary.

"That issue is already decided by the people when they vote," said Morrow, who served nine months in prison on what he called a drug-related felony conspiracy charge. He got out of prison 19 years ago Thursday. He said he was innocent of the charge stemming from \$300 in marijuana sold on his property.

Bingham said the voters will get to make a final decision on the issue with the amendment.

If the amendment gets on the ballot, it would mark the first constitutional referendum since 2004, when voters narrowly agreed to a change that made it easier for local governments to issue debt for some public building projects.

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 **maddyb** Score: 0
10:04 AM on July 1, 2010

Absolutely Not - I'm appalled that this is even a question and having to be voted on. I feel if you have drunk driving convictions, any type record you should NOT be able to have anything to do with Public Office. But this is how stupid our people and world has become that we actually have to talk about this, vote on this! Just sick and outrageous, you'd think people would be more educated in today's world but they are getting dumber and dumber and then you have the folks out there that are so uneducated and stupid, they VOTE for these idiots! Go figure!

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 **ucantsime** Score: -1
11:08 AM on July 1, 2010

I have no problem with it. They will never get voted in UNLESS you live in a county or state where morons outnumber sensible people. if they want to waste their time and money let them. The fact is most politicians come with more dirty laundry than some felons.

Without a miracle none of them would get elected anyway. I bet some of you don't realize you support a felon, locally, by spending your money at their place. Do a little research and you will find out who. If you support one and don't know it then why not let them run.

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some of you don't realize you support a felon, locally, by spending your money at their place. Do a little research and you will find out who. If you support one amd don't know it then why not not let them run.

You would be surprised at the felons we support by either shopping or eating at there business. not just here, everywhere.



ucantsime
11:10 AM on July 1, 2010

Score: -1

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Education is your problem maddyb. They want to teach you how to think and act. Common sense is much better.



pastortroy
11:48 AM on July 1, 2010

Score: 2

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I love how people post on here like there all high and mighty, and know nothing about the daily struggles people actually go through to change there life.



dshale
1:07 PM on July 1, 2010

Score: 0

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Some leopards don't change their spots and some do. In the case here with a recent assault on a state senator, seems to me that the spots are still there. I don't believe there should be a law, but the people should just know better. On the other hand I do see a conflict of interest as it pertains to a deputy that may have arrested their boss in the past.

arrested their boss in the past.



reader101

Score 0

3:19 PM on July 1, 2010

ummm No why would it even be consider?

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sons123

Score 1

7:51 PM on July 1, 2010

Those convicted of felons and not always guilty but become felons due to how their lawyers present their cases. I also know that SOME of those who have been incarcerated have come to know constitutional law far better than the majority of those who work in the judicial system and government system. They have studied it in depth. That give them far better knowledge than those within the whole system. To me that is a VERY important factor when it come to making a positive of negative vote.

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sons123

Score 1

7:54 PM on July 1, 2010

To allow these individuals to be voted into office they should also be allowed to vote. just like when a young man goes into the military to fight for this country they are denied specific priviledges, even though they are sacrificing their lives for our country---and the list could go on and on...

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sons123

Score 0

7:59 PM on July 1, 2010

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	<p>sons123 Score 0 7:59 PM on July 1, 2010</p> <p>It is true that some people make mistakes. Some learn from their mistakes and some don't.</p>	<p>Report Abuse</p>
	<p>earville2 Score 3 10:46 PM on July 1, 2010</p> <p>What's the difference between an ex-felon or the last 2 crooks we had as Sheriff?? I think the ex-felon might have been a better choice. :-)</p>	<p>Report Abuse</p>

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 6:59 AM on July 2, 2010	Report Abuse	
<p>People do learn from their mistakes. They do deserve forgiveness and redemption is possible.</p> <p>Even when you have learned from your mistakes, and even when forgive you still have to face the consequences of your actions.</p> <p>God said forgive, he didn't say to get stupid.</p>		
 dshale Score: 0 9:26 AM on July 2, 2010	Report Abuse	
<p>Some of y'all would actually vote for a felon? Sounds like to me the problem ain't who's running it's who's voting</p>		
 76lion Score: 1 11:00 AM on July 2, 2010	Report Abuse	
<p>This is almost as funny as letting an alcoholic manage an ABC store.</p>		
 cottoncandy08 Score: 1 12:44 PM on July 2, 2010	Report Abuse	
<p>hahahahaha I was going to say no. Felons should not be allowed to run for office. But who am I kidding? We have officials who are sneaking off to see their misters, people running for Sheriff who can not carry a gun, people who were not born in this country that get into office and governors making profits to the highest bidder for a seat. I really don't see a different in those and those who have committed a felony. I think if the person is clean and have turned around then they should be able to run. They didn't lose</p>		

This is almost as funny as letting an alcoholic manage an ABC store.



[cottoncandy08](#)
12:44 PM on July 2, 2010

Score 1

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hahahahaha I was going to say no. Felons should not be allowed to run for office. But who am I kidding? We have officials who are sneaking off to see their misters. people running for Sheriff who can not carry a gun. people who were not born in this country that get into office and governors making profits to the highest bidder for a seat. I really don't see a different in those and those who have committed a felony. I think if the person is clean and have turned around then they should be able to run. They didn't lose their American rights when they were set free now did they? Guess that is just crooked America for ya.

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Convicted felons run for sheriff positions across the state

Posted: April 28

Updated: April 29

For 10 years, Gerald Hege was arguably one of the most well-known sheriffs in the country.

From his pink jail cells to prison work crews dressed in old fashioned black and white stripes, the sheriff in Davidson County was a regular on national television shows. A hot sauce was even named after him.

Then the man known for driving a black police car adorned with spider images got caught in a web himself.

In 2004, Hege pleaded guilty to two felony counts of obstruction of justice. The plea deal kept him out of jail, but cost him his job.

Six years later, Hege is running for sheriff again, but there is a catch: State law prohibits a convicted felon, including Hege, from carrying a weapon.

He is not the only candidate with a criminal past running for the office of sheriff across the state:

- In Avery County, candidate Robert Nub Taylor was convicted of obstruction of justice as a clerk of court.
- McDowell County's Mark Stewart and Cleveland County candidate David Morrow each have felony drug convictions.
- Wilkes County candidate Willie Tharpe has a felony conviction for receiving stolen goods.
- Former Washington County Sheriff Stanley James was convicted of embezzling, but is running this year in an effort to reclaim the position.
- Ryan White, a candidate for sheriff in Dare County, has pending felony drug charges in two counties.



"The gun issue is not our primary motivating factor. It's an ethics issue," said Eddie Caldwell, spokesman for the North Carolina Sheriff's Association.

The NCSA is pushing for a bill in the state legislature to keep felons from becoming sheriff.

Salvation's Way is also campaigning against the felon candidates.

"The constitutional qualifications are not our main focus," said Melisia Prout, head of the group. "It's

the statutory qualifications you cannot get around. The fact that a convicted felon cannot be in care or control of a firearm, that statute does not say unless elected sheriff."

Hege said he doesn't need to carry a gun to hold the office.

"There's no general statute that I'm aware of that requires a sheriff to carry a firearm. The president of the United States don't carry one. The governor don't carry one, so I don't think one sheriff not carrying one is going to upset anybody," he said.

<p>What rights should be allowed to those convicted of a felony?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Vote</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Carry a gun</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Work in law enforcement</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Hold public office</p> <p><input type="radio"/> All of the above</p> <p><input type="radio"/> None of the above</p> <p><input type="button" value="Cast Your Vote"/></p> <p>Show Results • Disclaimer</p>
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Hege's opponents argue that the sheriff is actually in charge of the guns carried by more than 140 Davidson County deputies.

Hege says it's a stretch to say he can't even be around firearms.

"I don't know of any statute that says a felon cannot be around a firearm. I mean, I go to Walmart all the time," Hege said. "Walmart has guns. I go to Walmart. Convicted felons go there everyday."

The Davidson County Board of Elections will hold a full hearing after the May primary to rule on Hege's eligibility.

"Regulations in North Carolina prohibit a convicted felon from becoming a deputy sheriff or any other law enforcement officer in our state," Caldwell said. "The sheriffs believe that same standard that applies to the deputies ought to also apply to the office of sheriff."

The state Senate will consider a bill in the upcoming session of the General Assembly to ban felons from running for sheriff. If the bill passes, the issue would appear on voter ballots in November.

Reporter: [Kelcey Carlson](#)
Photographer: [Edward Wilson](#)
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I only printed 1 pg. of comments. There are 72 comments in all.

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In NC the only requirement to run for sheriff is to live within the county, the age 21, and be a US citizen. These elections are not about who would make the best Sheriff, its a popularity contest. Sheriffs should be hired by the county commissioners just as police chiefs are hired by city councils. When these sheriffs run amuck they are much harder to remove from office.

mustangyts
April 29, 2010 7:10 p.m.

What kind of message are we sending if we elect known criminals to public office? And in this case if he is on a call and needs a weapon he won't have one and could be putting lives at jeopardy.

Proud2BUS Citizen
April 29, 2010 6:46 p.m.

Sentramom....

I know exactly what he did! I lived there till I was 22. He did do a lot of good things, like I said earlier. He also is a criminal! Anyone who was arrested for embezzlement(which is what he was originally arrested for, before he worked out a deal on a lesser charge) shouldn't be allowed to work in law enforcement, or any elected position. Just like a teacher shouldn't get to keep his/her job if they have been convicted of a felony.

Ricky_Bobby
GOLO member since February 21, 2008
April 29, 2010 5:45 p.m. 

Responding to an earlier post about this proposed bill. It was introduced in the Senate during the previous session. Any bill that passed on chamber last year is eligible for consideration this year. While this bill didn't get out of the Senate, it is a budget issue since a cost will be incurred to put it on the ballot.

orangeyougladtoseeme
GOLO member since November 14, 2007
April 29, 2010 5:11 p.m. 

Clearly most people in the Triangle do not know of the wonderful things Hene did as sheriff. He should be

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orangeyougladtoseeme
GOLO member since November 14, 2007
April 29, 2010 5:11 p.m.

Clearly most people in the Triangle do not know of the wonderful things Hege did as sheriff. He should be re-elected IMHO. I mean, if Marion Barry who was a crackhead can be re-elected, why not Hege?

sentramom
GOLO member since August 17, 2007
April 29, 2010 3:45 p.m.

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Huh?! Ex-felons can't have guns, but can be sheriffs?

Posted: Tuesday, Mar. 30, 2010

From an editorial published March 28 in the Hickory Daily Record:

Should a convicted felon be allowed to run for sheriff? Of course not, you say. It makes no sense at all. A felon as your head of county law enforcement? That's crazy!

Not crazy at all. In North Carolina, felons can't be hired as deputy sheriffs, but they can run for sheriff.

A felon can't carry a gun, but can run for sheriff. Except for Sheriff Andy Taylor, carrying a gun - or being allowed to - is pretty much expected of sheriffs.

How often does a felon run for sheriff in North Carolina? More than you think. In Davidson County, the infamous felon Gerald Hege is running for the job he was forced to give up in disgrace in 2004.

In Cleveland County, a candidate with a felony drug conviction is running.

In Avery County, a man with an obstruction of justice conviction is running for sheriff a second time.

A sheriff's candidate in McDowell County has been convicted of selling drugs in 1987 and drug possession in 1998.

Yes, they've all paid their debts to society. But would you want any one of them as your sheriff?

Hege didn't need to be a convicted felon to become a poster boy for abuse of power. His excesses, including his relentless self-promotion, are well-documented. He once bragged that Lexington used to be famous for its barbecue, and that now it was famous for having him as sheriff. There was some pitiful truth to that statement.

Now the state's Sheriffs' Association is supporting an N.C. Senate bill called "No Felon as Sheriff," to ban felons from running. If the bill goes through, it would be placed on the Nov. 2 ballot as a state constitutional amendment.

Hege is abundant proof that the association's support is correct. The only remarkable thing is that it took this long for someone to realize such a bill was needed.

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Dave23 wrote on 03/30/2010 07:27:53 PM:

Look at the assortment of miscreants we've got in Raleigh and Washington, DC (not to mention those who used to be there but currently reside in state/federal correctional institutions). Hege is in good company. Elect him to Congress where he and Alcee Hastings can make each others acquaintance.

Recommend (0)

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ncdirtdigger2 wrote on 03/30/2010 03:18:02 PM:

Replying to ferris (03/30/2010 07:20:59 AM):

"Skippy:
The attempted political assassination of President Clinton was another process where every vote went right down party lines. I didn't hear anyone yelling about not being bipartisan then."

So you don't listen to Dimwits either?

Recommend (0)

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ferris wrote on 03/30/2010 07:20:59 AM:

Skippy:
The attempted political assassination of President Clinton was another process where every vote went right down party lines. I didn't hear anyone yelling about not being bipartisan then.

Recommend (1)

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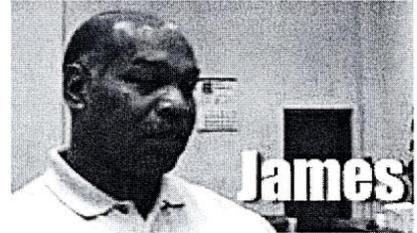
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Updated: 5:06 AM Feb 17, 2010

Former Sheriff Who Went To Prison Now Running For Sheriff Again

A former sheriff who served time for embezzlement is running for the sheriff's seat in Washington County.

Posted: 2:31 PM Feb 16, 2010



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A former sheriff who served time for embezzlement is once again running for the sheriff's seat.

The Washington County Board of Elections confirmed Stanley James has filed to run for sheriff.

James is a convicted felon who served about two months in prison, according to the NC Department of Corrections.

James, who had been sheriff in Washington County starting in 1998, was indicted in 2004. He was convicted in 2006 and served time from September 2007 to November 2007.

North Carolina is one of a dozen or so states where a convicted felon can run for office after his or her civil rights are restored. Elections officials say James registered to vote in October 2009 after his voting rights were restored.

Officials do say convicted felons are not permitted to carry firearms in North Carolina.

Elections officials say James has filed to run as a democrat, and that the only other competitor currently in the race is the incumbent sheriff, James Ross. He is also a democrat, so a primary race would be needed.

We are working to contact Stanley James.

Find this article at:

<http://www.witn.com/home/headlines/84496182.html?storySection=story>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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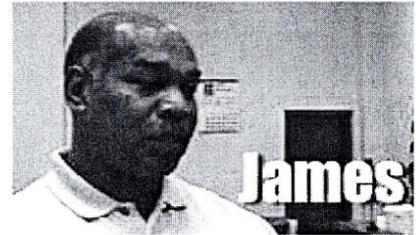
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Read Comments

Comments are posted from viewers like you and do not always reflect the views of this station.

Posted by: Ron Location: NC on Jul 20, 2010 at 08:40 AM

It would be hard for me to vote for someone convicted of a crime? That is only telling people that it's ok to commit crimes, and that now we are giving you another change to do the same thing over again. On the other hand, I believe in people getting a second change, but I would not start them at the top of the ladder. Start them at the bottom and let them earn their right to be back on top.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: For Stanley Location: Washington on Apr 29, 2010 at 05:35 AM

Hopefully Stanley learned his lesson. You don't have to carry a gun to be a goo Sheriff. Ross won't even talk to his employees about problems in the department. Just ask some of the people has had his Chief Deputy to fire.He refuses to even give them the courtesy of talking to them. Ross and

Hardison need to go. It is time for a change and Stanley can't do any worse than what is in there now. Stanley paid for what he did, but Ross and Hardison are allowed to continue day after day. That is the real crime in Washington. They hide their wrong doing. It is a real crime the way some of the employees have been treated under their leadership. Those are the people you need to hear from. My vote would be for Stanley James. Ross and Hardison need to go home. Wake up Washington county and listen to the employees that have left or been fired. You need to hear the truth about Ross and Hardison from the inside, the real truth. Not the made up truth from Ross and Hardison.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Run Stanley Run Location: Robersonville NC on Apr 15, 2010 at 02:20 PM

Run Stanley for Sheriff you can do it. You have my support. May God bless you and your family....smile.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Stanley James fan Location: Williamston on Apr 15, 2010 at 02:16 PM

Stanley James U have My VOTE!!!!!!!

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: understanding Location: Washington Co on Apr 9, 2010 at 12:54 PM

It's sad not to understand what it means to restore one's rights. It simply means a person can vote, get fishing license but no hunting license. A convicted felony can NOT carry a weapon. I personally like Stanley James and Ross, but the people in Washington Co need to stop and think about what is best for the Co stop pointing fingers and stop believing everything someone tells you. Nothing has been mentioned about the sheriff election in November when the winner of Ross/James has to face off with Greg Hassell. Back off of the mirror and take a good look around and see the whole picture, stop making racial comments and pointing fingers it happened and it does not make it right. Stanley is indeed a great person but not for sheriff. People just do the right thing and stop quoting the bible. With all the scriptures quoted it's time to pray for one another for all of Washington Co and the people who find nothing wrong with what has been done. Now do you still need understanding?

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: tax payer Location: washington county on Mar 22, 2010 at 07:35 PM

Stanley James is a well respected person and will again make a fine sheriff in Washington Co. I hate to say this, but the truth is the truth. Washington Co is so full of racial people that it is sad. This county is full of corruption in all colors, These Mentors companies need to be investigated, why can't the state see what these companies are doing? They are destroying these childrens and their targets are the peoples on medicaid. Social Service in this county need to also be investigated due to the fact that some of them works as mentors with medicaid patients. And I won't mention our Sheriff and Police Dept, That's a sad story they speed up and down the street, or parked somewhere EATING and when they get a little call 8 or 10 respond for something minor but let something major happen it is hard to get one to respond. and most of the time when someone is helped it is from the public, but the sheriff/ police dept will take credit for it and walk around like Barney 5. Be for real.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Ed Location: Jamesville on Mar 7, 2010 at 09:44 PM

God bless those who follow God's instruction to forgive and forget. God help those who are so stuck in hypocrisy that they can never get past the desire to feel better than someone, anyone. Please let these people have some feeling of accomplishment so that they don't have to try to push someone else below their record of failure and disappointment in order to make themselves feel like they are at least above someone.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: right is right Location: washington county on Mar 6, 2010 at 06:49 PM

I have a question for Mr. Stanley. Deep down in your heart do you feel you have a right to become sheriff again? Your heart has to tell you NO if you are a honest man. How can you feel that it is right to be a sheriff and have a record of a convicted FELON. My next question for you is i know you have a family to support and so do alot of other people. My child is in PRISON with the same type of conviction [FELON] that is his ONLY Thing on his record just like you. So when he get out are you telling me its OK for him to become a sheriff, if so i will vote for you only because of that ever though i know its WRONG, I LOVE MY CHILD that much. And if you feel he should you are more DISHONEST than i thought. This is to ALL THE FELONS out there, you have a SECOND CHANCE go run for SHERIFF, YOU Have an EXCELLENT chance of winning. Second chance with ONE CONVICTION should be for everyone, RIGHT IS RIGHT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Real Deal Location: Jamesville on Mar 1, 2010 at 06:43 PM

I noticed that you Washington County people stopped complaining after Baker laid down some really embarrassing developments. I would say, "This could get ugly", but Larry would take it as a personal insult.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Baker Location: Williamston on Feb 28, 2010 at 07:11 PM

Larry Cooper has filed for the sheriff's race in Martin county. If you Washington County people think you have an embarrassing situation, just let the news media talk to Larry one time. Well he isn't important enough to get any TV time thank God, if he did we would be the laughing stock of the entire country. The video of the interview would go viral on the internet under the title of Gomer runs for sheriff...dahuhu hu what?!

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Vote NO Location: Ptown on Feb 28, 2010 at 08:51 AM

Forgiveness is what the Bible teaches but forgetting is a passive action which cannot be controled. You can chose however how often you remember and chose to dwell on this issue. And if forgiveness is called for here but I hear none for the prosecutors who are accused of wrongdoing. Bringing all these issues back to the news does not help one to forget. In my Bible I am forgiven in direct relationship to how I forgive. Now if we take the emotions out of this election how would you vote? I believe there were wrongs done on both sides and do not believe Mr. James was totally without guilt but believe he was a target because he was the first black sheriff. The sheriff's race has been a racial contest for years in this county as each race wants control. Vote your brain not your color.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Neo Location: Reality *on Feb 28, 2010 at 03:10 AM*

TOO ALL IGNORANTS! Enough with the "can't carry a gun" stupidity. The courts can restore a felon's right to carry a gun. I am sure that Mr James right to carry would be restored if he were elected sheriff if it hasn't already been restored. Please stop saying the same dumb things over and over!

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: right is right Location: washington co *on Feb 27, 2010 at 05:16 PM*

I want everyone to know,i think Stanley is a good person but when you do wrong you have to pay the price.He is a felon and cant carry a gun so how is he going to protect us or even himself. He has a family to support and yes he needs a job but not as sheriff.When he was sheriff the public knew alot of things that went on in the dept. because of his close family members telling it at work.Stanley for your family stake leave our skeltons in the closets.People vote with your brain and not because you know him. I know and like him but im not stupid enough to vote for him.He will not be any help to us or especially himself with one firearm to protect him or us.Its not worse it.Please stop trying to prove the SYSTEM WRONG.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: King James Version Location: Martin County *on Feb 27, 2010 at 01:58 AM*

The one thing that bothers me is, the same DA that sought so hard to prosecute Mr. Stanley James for the embezzlement of \$2,600.00, allowed the lady from Beaufort County, that worked the school lunch room system, to pay a fine after the embezzlement of over \$48,000.00 and to top that off, he gave her a time frame in which to repay the money back. No conviction, no jail time and no record. Can somebody tell me how can this be justice or even fair. I still have the newspaper article on the \$48,000.00 dollars embezzlement case.It reads something like this, state official to pay restitution after the embezzlement of over \$48,000.00 dollars with no conviction.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: concern Location: plymouth *on Feb 26, 2010 at 08:25 PM*

To 50 cent Could not of said it better myself. I still think he needs to go sell cars. To Charlie Moore Jr. It also tells you it is in the Bible to not steal.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: 50 Cent Location: Washington County *on Feb 26, 2010 at 07:15 PM*

WOW! Stanley James a role model and mentor. Well he was in-fact a mentor when he got released from prison. As a matter of fact over 90% on the mentors that work for any Mentor Agency in Plymouth have been in prison or on probation. With all due respect - All the mentor agencies in Plymouth are run by Blacks and they are hiring these felons to mentor the kids (which over 90% of their clients/kids they are trying to help) are also black. What are the thinking? Don't they realize that what be being taught is that it is OK to Steal or commit crimes. And they wonder why the black youth get into so much trouble.. Maybe they do not care as long as a SS# from their client is given so they can be the government money.. Is that not what is being taught to people like Charlie Moore Jr. To every Black and White citizen of Washington County: If you think you are helping our youth by condoning such behavior. You're in for a rude awakening.. You better

wise up and vote for good elected officials.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: concern Location: plymouth on Feb 26, 2010 at 03:44 PM

his is crazy, now you have children thinking it is ok to steal!! If someone killed a family member would you say God forgave them so you can come back to my home again and it will be ok. Mr. Stanley as you called him (I call him a theif than wants you to believe I have he has changed) Stanley has no right to run for sheriff. If he cared so much for the county he would STOP NOW!!! I think you chould go back and be honesy John and sell cars. Washington needs you we don't

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Charlie Moore, Jr Location: Plymouth, NC on Feb 26, 2010 at 12:57 PM

I really hope Mr. Stanley James win. I can remember the day the charges were brought against Mr. James. I was quite younger, but that was the first time in my life I could feel the pain in a man. He knew in his heart and in his soul that he was being wrongly convicted. And I believe him. In the bible it tells us to forgive and forget. We should listen and apply what the bible speaks and, forgive & forget. I am glad Mr. James is running again and if I was of age he would have my vote. Please continue Mr. Stan, you are my Role Model! The bible says, "to much is given much is required", all of this is just a test. I hope you win Mr. Stan. -Charlie Moore, Jr. Plymouth, NC

[Report Abuse]

-Charlie Moore, Jr. Plymouth, NC" name="commentBody">

Posted by: leo Location: enc on Feb 26, 2010 at 12:48 AM

First of all I would never work for a sheriff that was a felon. Wether he did it or not. Also any other corrupt law enforcement officers. There are still some honest officers out there. And yes, they may even get lazy from time to time, but alot of that is from working two jobs to pay their bills. But who hasn't ever gone to work and just felt like not doing much. Just about everyone I know. but that is just for a day. How many people do you know that are willing to give their life to protect someone they doen't even know. You can't have a police cheif that is a felon so why should the sheriff be any different. I would bet that not all but alot of people that holler about corrupt officers have been in trouble with the law before. And yes there are corrupt officers and they should go to prison also.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: 50 Cent Location: Washington County on Feb 25, 2010 at 11:29 PM

To: VoteNo - I agree with you 100%. There has been numerous Law Enforcement Officers arrested for drugs and a variety of other charges by outside agencies. Why can't the Sheriff's Department see there is a problem? I would guess; either Washington County Law Enforcement Officers are involved in the criminal activity taking place, have family or friends involved which they don't want to arrest or are so poorly trained they just don't know what to do! Why on earth do the citizens of Washington County continue to allow this to happen? I can see why you don't feel secure in your home town.. People; The answer is simple: Vote with you brain not you heart!

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Baker Location: Williamston on Feb 25, 2010 at 06:56 PM

"Concerned", If you don't think companies should hire a convicted felon and counties shouldn't hire a convicted felon, how is the convicted felon supposed to earn a decent living after he has PAID his debt to society. I wish you would wear a shirt with "Convicted Felons Don't Deserve To Make A Living" on it. Put a sign up in your yard that says the same thing. This will let all the felons who can't get a job know that it is because of people like you. Maybe when they get hungry and can't pay their bills, they will take it up with you. Maybe they will steal your lawnmower instead of mine. Self-righteous hypocrits tell a man he doesn't deserve to earn a reasonable wage at a decent job and then wonder why the man puts a boot in their backside, a knot on their head and relieves them of their wallet. "Concerned", I am more concerned about you and your lack of foresight. Williamston, dumpy little town, still the center of the universe!! Ah yes....Baykha!!!

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Baker Location: Williamston on Feb 25, 2010 at 06:44 PM

Wonder no more! Baykha!!!

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Concerned Location: Roper on Feb 25, 2010 at 05:40 PM

He will not get my vote. How many companies will hire a convicted felon? Not many. Wash. Co. shouldn't either. I also think a sheriff of any county should always wear a service revolver.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Wondering about Baykah Location: To Baker on Feb 25, 2010 at 04:27 PM

What happened to your word "BAYKAH" or however you spell it? What's it mean? You are the first I've ever seen that has ever put such a word up there, and I think this is the first time you don't have it up here.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Citizen Location: Washington County on Feb 25, 2010 at 04:17 PM

Please, please WITN, enough!!enough!!enough!! this is why he shouldn't be the sheriff. He want other people to take the blame for his action. He may be sweet and kind in one way, but devilish in so may other ways. Stanley knows that he was not set up. Thats just what he want you to believe. That's one of the reason he ended up serving time in prison instead of probation, with all of the evidence that was presented in court, he was still trying to put the blame on other people. This doesn't make him a BAD individual, he' just not an HONEST one.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: VoteNO Location: PTown on Feb 25, 2010 at 04:03 PM

The whole police force in Washington Co needs to be redone.I told one of them(I will not mention his smiling face) that drugs were being sold by people renting a house from me and nothing was done and it took months for me to get the renters out.In the Wenona community one drug dealer has done business for 40 years and has never been checked and I wonder WHY?I like Mr.James personaly but believe he should not run again as it only makes the racial problem more intense. Owning a home, business, and property in this county does not allow me the option of moving so we will try to make the best of a bad situation.Its seems my law inforcement does 2 things for me now either waste my time or write me a ticket. We do not feel secure in WC and hope things

might change.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: J A Location: PLYMOUTH on Feb 25, 2010 at 12:28 PM

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT STANLEY JAMES WAS NOT FOUND GUILTY NOR NO OTHER BLACK PERSON BECAUSE OF COLOR IN WASHINGTON COUNTY..

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: done wrong in washington county Location: martin county on Feb 25, 2010 at 11:51 AM

as far as im concerned stanley james is a fine man,willie williams and all the corrupt officers of washington county set him up.stanley was a straight player and they took him out.the only thing wrong is that Ross and Hardison are still running washington county.they are the corruption.if you didnt notice all the honest officers have been fired or quit, why is that. you people in washington county want an honest sheriff, VOTE FOR STANLEY JAMES!!

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Baker Location: Williamston on Feb 25, 2010 at 11:42 AM

"anon" of Feb 25 at 7:52am, why don't you pick up the local newspaper? I know there isn't much in it but it did have an article with big headlines reporting who had filed for the sheriff's race. There is nothing hush hush about unless you are living in your own little world. We are all just waiting with baited breath to see if Gomer Pyle uh..er...oh..sorry, Larry Cooper is going to waste his time again this year.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: anon Location: Martin County on Feb 25, 2010 at 07:52 AM

Hey peoples, least you know who has filed to run for the office of sheriff,,,, in Martin County it seems its a hush hush affair!

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Slappy Location: Creswell on Feb 25, 2010 at 12:25 AM

Hey "Greg",.....BYE. Like totally....BYE BYE!

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: LL on Feb 25, 2010 at 12:07 AM

Who cares put a fence around washington county

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Tantrum Location: Bertie County on Feb 24, 2010 at 10:41 PM

If he becomes Sheriff does he get to carry a gun?If so,I too am a convicted felon and if he gets a gun then I want one too.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Uncle Buck Location: ENC on Feb 24, 2010 at 10:18 PM

Whats the big deal? Look at the Mayor of DC, drugs. Look at a Senator Kennady, leaving scene of accident with death involved. Look at the Gov of South Carolina, mistress, tax dollars. Look at the late president clinton, did not inhale, stain on shirt and the list goes on. He did his time unlike some of the above.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Anonymous on Feb 24, 2010 at 07:55 PM

wash co. what a joke you will be if he wins !!!!!!!

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: concern Location: plymouth on Feb 24, 2010 at 05:47 PM

My question is if both are so bad what are the people of Washington Co to do? I have heard alot of things that has made me think. What do we do. Someone has to hold down the job and God knows James has aready made us a big joke. I would like for someone let me know who can do the job and make all of us proud to live in Washington Co again.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Justice on Feb 24, 2010 at 04:50 PM

To Dannie: Freedom of speach is the most important of all our rights, this blog and those exerciseing their right to speak, should never be gagged. I am sure you arent a commie, just misguided. ANYONE in public office is OPEN to be talked about by any citizen of this country, good or bad. Maybe you should reconsider what country you want to live in.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: greg Location: creswell on Feb 24, 2010 at 04:45 PM

hey Dannie r u kidding me this dude shouldn even have the nerve to run and the sad thing is the people of washington co will vote for this scumbag and all i got to say is they r real smart if he wins i will totally move from the county

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Dannie Location: Atlanta on Feb 24, 2010 at 02:54 PM

Boy some of you really need to look in the mirror. Please leave this alone, WITN why are you allowing this level of badgering to Washington County and why are the people of Washington County participating. Plymouth is my home and no matter where I go will always call Plymouth home. You are really making the county as a whole look bad. When its time to vote, VOTE. We live in a democratic society. Let the people VOTE and see the outcome.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: ~ALPHA female~ Location: O84P on Feb 24, 2010 at 10:01 AM

"Judged" guilty by a group of his peers and yet... still he runs! hmmmmm LOL ..Slowly we see the coming of the new world order... ..I bet you're scared!!! BOO

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Dilan Location: Plymouth on Feb 24, 2010 at 08:56 AM

Anonymous,just to let you know it is kind of hard to set somebody up when they are doing wrong

in the first place. Stanley James was not set up the first time, nor will he be set up now. You people need to understand he knew what he was doing was wrong. He lied to the SBI when he was questioned the first time. So don't get on here with the poor Stanley stories!!!! How can he be so arrogant or maybe it is ignorant as to even run for Sheriff. Yes I know the defense that is being used. Only God can judge. We are not judging him a jury already has GUILTY...

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Justice on Feb 24, 2010 at 08:24 AM

Blue: Said James knew the checks were suppose to be turned over to the county cause these checks come regulary, yet he failed to do so and decided NOT to do so. Does anyone disagree with this? Even if the money was accounted for, and he had "good" intentions, knowingly fail to comply with policy because of his personal feelings about the money and where it should go, is grounds for a conviction. IS this the case? If so, he has no business running for sheriff. Anyone offer any other analogy?

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Mentally Ill Location: Dix Hill on Feb 23, 2010 at 08:23 PM

I think that NO Law Abiding Citizen should vote for either one of these thugs. That way, they would see neither one of them was very well liked and had very little support. Then the Good Citizens of Washington County could get together and IMPEACH the winner of these two losers. That looks like that will be the only option to get a decent sheriff unless somebody else runs. But who knows, that's just a thought and I'm: Mentally Ill

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: ~ALPHA female~ Location: O84P on Feb 23, 2010 at 06:34 PM

This man has paid his dues... hence he IS running! ...The rest of you... please dim your halos, they're hurting the rest of "US" sinner's eyes. (Only God can judge me!)

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Anonymous Location: wash. co on Feb 23, 2010 at 06:24 PM

If anything strange just seems to happen to Stanley James(like other charges)before the May elections, then it will be confirmed that Ross, Hardinson, and others were responsible. Do not try to do stuff under-handed because it will come back and bite! Because if there was something else to charge Stanley with, they should had done it before now. So just in case Ross is trying to find something before the primary election, IT MEANS THAT HE WILL DO ANYTHING TO KEEP STANLEY FROM RUNNING AND THAT HE IS AS VINDICTIVE AS THE REST OF THEM!

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Anonymous on Feb 23, 2010 at 05:14 PM

"SK", read more, civil rights can be restored by the courts. I know, mine were. Where is Wayen County? Is that near Hazard County or Cornfield County? Please respect the other posters and know a little about what you are talking about before sharing. Besides Andy Taylor was a good sheriff in Wayen County.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: dj Location: wash. Co on Feb 23, 2010 at 01:25 PM

this man has no right to act as a sherriff. Did he lie on his application when it asks have you been convicted of a felony in the last ten years? What is this world coming to. I certainly will not be voting for him. Where is the justice in the world?

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Anonymous on Feb 23, 2010 at 01:24 PM

To WOW: "You might don't work in the Sheriff dept.?" Are you trying to say, "You might not work in the Sheriff Dept." Does it really matter where this person works, b/c I'm not real sure what someone's opinion about an Election or the current condition of County Law Enforcement has to do with where they work. Is that not what these comments are SUPPOSED to be about? Seems to me the title of the article is FORMER SHERIFF WHO WENT TO PRISON NOW RUNNING FOR SHERIFF AGAIN! I believe these posts have taken a turn down a different path!

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: SK Location: Wayen County on Feb 23, 2010 at 10:53 AM

Just remember , a convicted felon cannot possess or carry a gun under Federal Law and State Law. Does this guy plan to be the new Sheriff Andy Taylor.(a weaponless Law Enforcement Officer) It seems from the comments that someone other than the two running for office should be elected. Both Candidates seems to be a problem in Washington Co. How about someone new with maybe a clean record that has the respect of the whole county , not just a few ?/ Hey , just food for thought.

[Report Abuse]

Posted by: Anonymous on Feb 23, 2010 at 09:43 AM

I think that unless barney gets his gun back he shouldn't be able to run for sheriff how could anyone possibly think he would be good for the office again? Stanley James tarnished this county and the Badge wether or not he meant to do it is beside the point. Yes James Ross may not be the best answer in the long run but how could you possibly take a step back to move foward makes no sense. The Sheriffs office has came along way to make it where its at now, the officers that work for washington county truly care for the county. Some say to much turnover, well i say yes there has been a lot of turn over, but out-side of Mr. Phelps i don't see anybody i miss, and as I stated in the previous few lines the officers that are there now are great officers who truly care for thier community. This office has come so far please people of Washington County don't take a step in the wrong direction LEAVE STANLEY JAMES where he belongs a happy voter, not SHERIFF!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

[Report Abuse]

Page:

Find this article at:

<http://www.witn.com/home/headlines/84496182.html?storySection=comments>

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Home Blogs & polls

7 counties could choose a felon for sheriff

Submitted by scharrison on Thu, 04/29/2010 - 12:01pm Election 2010 Gerald Hege NC Sheriff's Association

At least Barney Fife had one bullet:

Hege is running for sheriff again, but there is a catch: State law prohibits a convicted felon, including Hege, from carrying a weapon.

"There's no general statute that I'm aware of that requires a sheriff to carry a firearm. The president of the United States don't carry one, so I don't think one sheriff not carrying one is going to upset anybody," he said.

"Doesn't" carry one, Gerald. Even if you can't carry a gun, at least you should go armed with decent verbal skills.

Here are the other felons running for sheriff across our apparently very forgiving state:

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New posts

- Richard Burr: Still a bigot, still a jerk James
- What's on Tap: This Week at Drinking Liberally Raleigh Frank Thomas Jr.
- Pondering Polling Places location and voting behavior mbrock49
- Marshall on tobacco tax/ children's health insurance ScarletOHara
- Truth to Power: Corruption in Democratic Party mbrock49
- Yoo Hoo! Is anyone out there in Asheville for BoE Meeting this morning? mbrock49
- Lunch links at Progressive Pulse James

One week left!

Reward offered for showing that Richard Burr has done something significant in the past 16 years



New comments

- Just to say it Mr. Senator 10 min 55 sec ago
- Join the Club 37 min 53 sec ago
- It made no difference 1 hour 5 min ago
- Clarification 1 hour 17 min ago
- Speak the truth and shame the devil 1 hour 32 min ago
- I have no doubt 2 hours 8 min ago
- I can't bring myself to call it corruption 2 hours 18 min ago
- why I blogged this today 2 hours 19 min ago

more

Feed you

BlueNC front page only

In Avery County, candidate Robert Nub Taylor was convicted of obstruction of justice as a clerk of court.

McDowell County's Mark Stewart and Cleveland County candidate David Morrow each have felony drug convictions.

Wilkes County candidate Willie Tharpe has a felony conviction for receiving stolen goods.

Former Washington County Sheriff Stanley James was convicted of embezzling, but is running this year in an effort to reclaim the position.

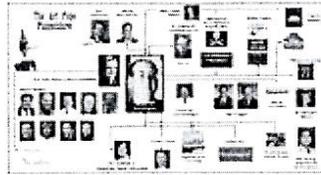
Ryan White, a candidate for sheriff in Dare County, has pending felony drug charges in two counties.

- The Tea Party Version of Freedom HallStyle

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Spotlight on the Show



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RoopleTheme

I'm laughing through my tears on this one.

scharrison's blog 954 reads

Bass-ackwards

Submitted by loftT on Thu, 04/29/2010 - 12:54pm.

Most felons in this state can't get a job at all much less a job overseeing other felons. NC is very forgiving of *some* felons.

Progressive Democrats of
North Carolina

But do they have to carry papers?

Submitted by usernamehere on Thu,
04/29/2010 - 1:23pm.

But can the felon-sheriffs
provide their birth certificates
or just their release papers?

And will they have to carry
them on their person?

Or only if it's not open carry
and not concealed carry.

So many things to figure out!

S.B. 351

Submitted by Phillip Gilfus on Thu,
04/29/2010 - 4:59pm.

It's always a delicate issue
when attempting to limit the
employment possibilities of
convicted felons. As a
criminal attorney, I see
individuals make very unwise
decisions, but these
decisions should not ruin the
rest of their lives. However, at
the same time, felonies are
designed to follow you the
rest of your life; that's part of
the punishment for
committing a crime that rises
to the level of a felony.

All that being said, I have to
agree with the North Carolina
Sheriffs' Association which is
lobbying in support of S.B.
351, No Felon as Sheriff bill.

This bill is, in effect, an amendment to the state constitution. I know my sheriff, Earl "Moose" Butler, is a strong proponent of the bill, and I stand by him. Here's more information from the N.C. Sheriffs' Association about it: <http://www.news-record.com/blog/61601/entry/85505>

Here is the full text of the proposed bill:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE
3 CONSTITUTION OF NORTH
4 CAROLINA TO PROVIDE
5 THAT NO PERSON
6 CONVICTED OF A FELONY
7 IS ELIGIBLE TO BE
8 ELECTED
9 SHERIFF.

10 The General Assembly of
11 North Carolina enacts:

12 SECTION 1. Section 2 of
13 Article VII of the Constitution
14 of North Carolina reads
15 as rewritten:

16 "Sec. 2. Sheriffs.

17 In each county a Sheriff
18 shall be elected by the
19 qualified voters thereof at the
20 same time and

21 places as members of the
22 General Assembly are
23 elected and shall hold his
24 office for a period of

25 four years, subject to
26 removal for cause as
27 provided by law. No person is
28 eligible to serve as

29 Sheriff if that person has
30 been adjudged guilty of any
31 felony against this State or
32 the United

33 States, or of a felony in
34 another state that also would
35 be a felony if it had been
36 committed in

37 this State, whether or not

that person has been
restored to the rights of
citizenship in the manner
15 prescribed by law."
16 SECTION 2. The
amendment set out in this act
shall be submitted to the
qualified
17 voters of the State at the
statewide general election on
November 2, 2010, which
election shall
18 be conducted under the
laws then governing elections
in the State. Ballots, voting
systems, or
19 both may be used in
accordance with Chapter 163
of the General Statutes. The
question to be
20 used in the voting systems
and ballots shall be:
21 "[] FOR [] AGAINST
22 Constitutional amendment
providing that no person
convicted of a felony may
serve
23 as sheriff."
24 SECTION 3. If a majority
of votes cast on the question
are in favor of the
25 constitutional amendment
set out in this act, the State
Board of Elections shall
certify the
26 amendment to the
Secretary of State. The
constitutional amendment is
effective upon
27 certification. The
Secretary of State shall enroll
the amendments so certified
among the
28 permanent records of that
office.

Convicted Felon Runs For Sheriff



Posted: 5:30 pm EDT March 18, 2010 Updated: 6:26 pm EDT March 18, 2010

CLEVELAND CO., N.C. -- David Morrow said accountability and leadership make him a good candidate for Cleveland County Sheriff, but the North Carolina Sheriff's Association has its doubts.

Morrow was convicted on felony drug charges in 1991 and, in a release, the organization said convicted felons should not be allowed to run for sheriff.

The association wants voters to decide in November if felons should be barred from office, but Morrow said he thinks it's unnecessary.

Morrow pointed to the former Buncombe County Sheriff, who was convicted of accepting bribes, as proof that non-felons aren't always stellar candidates for the job.

"I think they need to look at their selves before they look at somebody that was convicted over 20 years ago," Morrow said. "I don't see where it is relevant to the job that I can do." Wes Wesmoreland, the head of Cleveland County's Republican party, said Morrow has been a model citizen and Planning Board Chairman.

"I'm more concerned with things being done wrong while in office then I am with things being done wrong 20 years ago," Wesmoreland said.

He said voters should decide who the best candidate for the position is, regardless of whether he is a convicted felon.

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NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC RADIO

WUNC

House: No Felons for Sheriff Currently Mostly Cloudy, 81° in Raleigh

Thursday, July 01 2010 by Laura Leslie |  Send to a friend

Laura Leslie: The state House takes a final vote today on a proposal to amend the state constitution to ban felons from serving as sheriffs. Supporters of the amendment say six convicted felons are running for sheriff's offices statewide, including one who was convicted while serving as sheriff in the past. Alamance Republican Dan Ingle urged other lawmakers to approve the bill, saying sheriffs should be of good moral character.

Dan Ingle: "Changing the constitution is something that certainly nothing any of us should take lightly. But I say this to you – I think when our founding fathers in this great state, when they wrote this constitution, they never thought that a scoundrel or a person committing high crimes would run for sheriff."

Supporters of the measure also point out that convicted felons cannot carry a gun, even as sheriff. It won its first vote unanimously. If it passes the House and Senate, the amendment would go to the voters for approval this November.

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Mon, 03/22/2010 - 07:05

Pitt County Pride



 Online

Joined: 12/19/2009

Posts: 4192

NOTE: I think convicted felons should be banned from voting or holding ANY public office for at least 20 years from the date of unconditional release, if ever...

 NC Sheriffs Support Constitutional Amendment to Ban Convicted Felons From Running For Sheriff's Office

North Carolina's sheriffs are lining up in support of a state Senate bill that seeks to bar convicted felons from being sworn in as sheriffs.

The bill, introduced last year by Sen. Stan Bingham of Davidson County, appears to be aimed squarely at the candidacy of fellow Republican Gerald Hege for sheriff in the senator's home county.

Hege served as sheriff in Davidson from 1994 to 2004, when he was forced to resign after being indicted on 15 felony counts for corruption.

Though as a convicted felon he is forbidden from owning a firearm or serving as a sworn deputy, there is apparently no law that would bar Hege from being sworn in as sheriff. Bingham's bill seeks to remedy that by amending the state constitution to bar felons from taking office as sheriff.

"The sheriffs of North Carolina vigorously support this legislation and adamantly believe that a convicted felon should not be allowed to run for or be elected or appointed as sheriff in our great state," Sheriff James Knight of Edgecombe County, president of the N.C. Sheriffs' Association, said last week in a statement.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/03/22/401402/davidson-senators-bill-see...>

Hell is hot. Is your home prayer-conditioned?

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Tue, 03/23/2010 - 01:42

#1

WK5

 Online

Joined: 12/20/2009

Posts: 1539

Plucking a Republican out, when it rains all over the place in just this same way on the Democrat side? Sure there "oughtta" be a law about this... gee, wonder why enough legislators can't come together to make such a law I wonder? They don't seem to have any trouble dropping new laws all over the heads of the people for every little possible limitation/prevention and let's not forget all the ways they get to sugar themselves with what they rape from us.

Well, let's look over the Democrat Party presently making all these new laws for us? You'd think all these names would be burned upon my brain by now... but what's his name - the black representative that made his speech to us as fine as a KKK member of the past would have made - who was a judge but was impeached? And then the Democrats in all their infinite wisdom, put him in the House of Representatives?

Then of course we look down the list of just how long the Democrat Party hangs on to flat out corrupted leaders and unbelievably -- puts them on the most important commissions they can stuff them on? While under investigation at that? And of course, they slither away when the heat remains... under cover of darkness without hardly a PEEP coming out of liberal media.

Look at North Carolina Democrat leadership? Groan.... there will always be Louisiana as the ultimate recent gem. Then consider our own U.S. Senate.... and U.S. House of Representatives... and the Obama Administration for goodness sakes. Yeah... there oughtta be a law.

Apparently, the more crooked they are... the more they successfully run for office and get elected. But consider their voters?

All seems pretty clear to me.

Be nice to make a law about adulterers... pedophiles... hypocrites... liars.... thieves... cheats.... you know... your general corrupted ordinaries out here roaming around.

We got all kinds, in all flavors, from all directions -- that should never be considered at all without at least a huge bit of time and healing and proof there has been change at least. But a felon? Seems to be one of those undesirables no office in government should hold.

Come to think of it... these rules/regulations would also be of benefit for the casual government employee as well.

Clean it all up!

If we did, perhaps we could indeed look up to these people with a real reason to respect and trust again.

Oops, was it something I said?

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Former Sheriff Gerald Hege Files to Run Again

By Roxanna Haynes | FOX8 News
12:54 PM EST, February 9, 2010



Former Davidson County sheriff Gerald Hege files to run for the office again. (Roxanna Haynes / FOX8)

LEXINGTON, N.C. - Flamboyant former Davidson County sheriff Gerald Hege filed Tuesday to run for the same office from which he resigned in 2004 after being charged with 15 felonies.

Hege, a Republican, lost his office in 2004 after he was charged with 15 felonies in September 2003. He pleaded guilty to two felony counts of obstruction of justice and received two suspended 6-month sentences.

Follow reporter Roxanna Haynes on Twitter

Sheriff David Grice was appointed to finish Hege's term, and voters re-elected him in 2006.

Shortly before noon, Hege filed to run for sheriff again. Hege's desire to run again had been the subject of much attention since last fall, when "Vote for Hege" signs began popping up in Davidson County yards. In September, his son told FOX8 News Hege planned to run.

Incumbent Grice, also a Republican, told the Winston-Salem Journal on Tuesday that he **plans to file for re-election** on Monday. Former North Carolina Highway Patrolman Terry Price, also a Republican, has filed for the office as well.

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[Latest Filings for Sheriff](#)

[Gerald Hege Photo](#)

[Former Sheriff Hege Campaigns Early for Old Job](#)

[Controversial Former Sheriff Will Run Again](#)

Hege, who served as Davidson County sheriff for 10 years, became well-known for his off-the-wall style. He had the Davidson County Jail painted pink with crying, blue teddy bears on the walls. He was known for having several chases in the county in his "spider car."

One year, Hege sent out Christmas cards with a picture of him and the severed head of Osama bin Laden. The card said, "Happy Ramadan."

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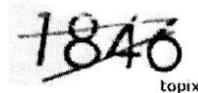
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Fox 8 WGHP Forum & Polls

Former Sheriff Gerald Hege Files to Run Again

Full story: Fox 8 WGHP

Former Davidson County sheriff Gerald Hege files to run for the office again. LEXINGTON, N.C. - Flamboyant former Davidson County sheriff Gerald Hege filed Tuesday to run for the same office from which he resigned in 2004 after being charged with 15 felonies.

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scott e hill Jun 24, 2010 #1 | Judge it! | Report Abuse | Reply »
Winston Salem, NC

Judged: 1 1

i suppor he and hope vote back in office.he is a good men .he stop the crime rate in dividson county.

scott e hill Jun 24, 2010 #2 | Judge it! | Report Abuse | Reply »
Winston Salem, NC

yes

John in High Point Jun 24, 2010 #3 | Judge it! | Report Abuse | Reply »
AZ

He did a fantastic job while in office but he betrayed the office of sheriff by being a crook according to the court. While I applaude him for his enforcement abilities, I cannot and would not support him as a sheriff again if I did vote in Davidson county.

hillbillygirl201 0 Friday Aug 6 #4 | Judge it! | Report Abuse | Reply »
Chatteston, WV

I lived in lexington for 16 yrs and when he got in office he did do wrong. I have to say he did some things right but he also did the wrong things too. They will be crazy to put him back in office

observer Friday Aug 6 #5 | Judge it! | Report Abuse | Reply »
Dunn, NC

scott e hill wrote:
i suppor he and hope vote back in office he is a good men he stop the crime rate in dividson county.

LMAO

observer Friday Aug 6 #6 | Judge it! | Report Abuse | Reply »
Dunn, NC

John in High Point wrote:
He did a fantastic job while in office but he betrayed the office of sheriff by being a crook according to the court. While I applaude him for his enforcement abilities, I cannot and would not support him as a sheriff again if I did vote in Davidson county.

he is about as corrupt as they come. he should be a sheriff in mexico;he's just like the aguaciles.

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Johnson supports bill that would keep felons from serving as sheriffs

Comments 10
 March 16, 2010 3:48 PM

Times-News

Alamance County Sheriff Terry Johnson supports a legislative bill that would ensure that a convicted felon can't serve as a county sheriff.

Under current law, once a convicted felon completes an imposed sentence, that person is eligible to vote and run for office.

Johnson, who attended a N.C. Sheriff's Association training conference this week, spoke in favor of the association's position that supports a ban on convicted felons being allowed to serve as a sheriff in North Carolina, according to an Alamance County Sheriff's Department news release.

"Sheriff Johnson indicated that he felt it was unacceptable to have felons serving as the head law enforcement official in any county of North Carolina," the release states.

State Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson County, introduced the bill in February 2009. In 2003, former Davidson County Sheriff Gerald Hege was indicted on 15 felony counts, including obtaining property by false pretense, embezzlement, obstruction of justice and intercepting oral communication. He eventually pleaded guilty to two counts of obstruction of justice. He received a suspended sentence and was placed on probation.

He resigned as sheriff in 2004, but Hege filed for re-election last month.

When Bingham introduced the bill last year, the sheriff's association voted in support of it. The group reaffirmed that support at the association's spring meeting in Wilmington this week.

The bill is pending and eligible for consideration in the legislative session that convenes May 12. If Senate Bill 351 is enacted into law by the N.C. General Assembly, it would be placed on the ballot in November's election, according to a sheriff's association news release.

The N.C. Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission prohibits a convicted felon from being certified as a deputy sheriff.

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devereaux
4:22 PM on March 18, 2010

I'm a little surprised this is even an issue. Wouldn't it be kind of easy to run a campaign against a convicted felon?

Score: 0

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nrfraser
5:35 PM on March 18, 2010

I agree with you devereaux...

Score: 0

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tarticoil
6:19 PM on March 18, 2010

I don't think anyone who is not allowed to vote, should be allowed to run for office.

Score: 0

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spaulding
7:01 PM on March 18, 2010

There in lies the rub, tarticoil...once a felon has finished serving their sentence then they are eligible to vote again. Same with running for office....

Score: 0

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buzward
8:20 PM on March 18, 2010

This is a total no brainer. A felon Sheriff. How in the world could anyone accept that. However, I have some friends in Davidson county,one is a policeman, who really believe that Hege has a good chance of winning. The policeman says that it would be a desaster.

I personally believe Sheriff Grice has done an acceptable job.

Score: 0

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spanishokhl
10:13 PM on March 18, 2010

How does everyone feel about a Sheriff associating with a convicted felon?

Score: 0

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spanishokhl
10:26 PM on March 18, 2010

Excuse me, I mean convicted felons.

Score: 0

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snowghost
1:01 AM on March 19, 2010

I am surprised Sheriff Johnson would support this bill. Johnson is friends with convicted felons. They are given special treatment when they come to the Sheriff's Office. Johnson even tried to hire one of his friends, a convicted felon, years ago. Johnson is also good friends with Michael Graves. Now we all know the problems Graves is having. Graves gets special treatment when he comes to the Sheriff's Office. He parks in front of the Sheriff's Office in the assigned marked parking places just like he works there. Other citizens in this county are not allowed to park in these assigned marked parking places. Their cars would be towed. When there are warrants on Graves, he comes to the Sheriff's Office and goes straight to Sheriff Johnson's office to have the warrants served. I found it interesting that his bond was set at \$1000.00 unsecured on this last charge. If Graves wants to see an inmate he goes to Johnson's office. Johnson arranges for him to see the inmate without having to go through the normal procedure for visiting inmates. Graves tells everyone that he and Sheriff Johnson are good close friends. I guess Graves is lucky to have a good close friend like Sheriff Terry Johnson.

Score: 0

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andytaylor
8:15 AM on March 19, 2010

Score: 0

[Report Abuse](#)

I don't know how you can do any Sheriffing if you can't even be deputized!



ctdown
6:10 PM on March 20, 2010

Score: 0

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Such an amazing article about Sheriff Johnson supporting a bill that would keep felons from serving as sheriffs. Seems like he is talking out of both sides of his mouth again. Several years back he did everything he could to get one of his felon friends record expunged. From my understanding he wanted to hire his friend at the sheriff's office. He could not do this because his friend is a convicted felon. Johnson was not successful in getting the record expunged. Now why would Johnson try to get his friend's record expunged and make a state that he supports the bill from keeping felons from serving as sheriffs. Good thing his old friend is not trying to serve as a sheriff. That might be problems between Johnson and his friend the felon. All I can say is one less vote for Johnson. We all know felons can't vote

Pluck



Published on HamptonRoads.com | PilotOnline.com (<http://hamptonroads.com>)

Former N.C. sheriff runs again, this time as felon

LEXINGTON, N.C.

A former North Carolina sheriff who claimed national notice for tough-on-crime tactics and later admitted to felony crimes is running again.

Multiple media outlets are reporting that Gerald Hege has filed to seek election as Davidson County sheriff.

The Republican resigned as sheriff in 2004 after a decade in office and pleaded guilty to two felony counts of obstruction of justice. Prosecutors say Hege tried to cover up money missing from his department's vice and narcotics unit.

His probation ended in 2007, but he is barred from owning a gun.

As sheriff, Hege starred on a national cable television program highlighting what he called America's toughest jail, where he painted cells pink. He drove a high-powered car and removed television sets and books from the jail.

Source URL (retrieved on 08/24/2010 - 15:32): <http://hamptonroads.com/2010/02/former-nc-sheriff-runs-again-time-felon>

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DO WE NEED TO KNOW THAT HE IS A REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT?

Submitted by oracledbatobe on Wed, 02/10/2010 at 12:54 pm.

Is it absolutely necessary to know whether he was a Democrat or Republican? I mean the fact that this guy cannot vote but can be elected is an oxymoron but just a small blip on the radar of what is wrong with our election system. We can now tell ourselves that we don't trust the politician, the election process, or the rules that allow anyone to run for office. I seriously dont expect my child to care about registering to vote by the time she comes of age. If it's a joke now... it will be a comic strip event for her.

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THE LAW

Submitted by Alice-in-W on Wed, 02/10/2010 at 12:03 pm.

does not apply to police officers, the Sheriff's Dept. or the government in general. They have some kind of exemption that the rest do not enjoy.

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0 or 0

CAN A CONVICTED FELON VOTE FOR HIMSELF?

Submitted by commonsenseguy on Wed, 02/10/2010 at 11:45 am.

In NC a convicted felon can be elected to public office. Can he vote?

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ELECTIONS

Submitted by Citizen123 on Wed, 02/10/2010 at 11:03 am.

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ELECTIONS

Submitted by Citizen123 on Wed, 02/10/2010 at 11:03 am.

Just another elected representative that doesn't have a clue...

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TECHNICALLY HE WOULDN'T OWN THE GUN

Submitted by Mo777 on Wed, 02/10/2010 at 10:43 am.

Technically he wouldn't own the gun, it would belong to the department. But they didn't say he couldn't carry it!

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2 or 2

FOR THE TWO THAT GAVE THE THUMBS DOWN ...

Submitted by Mo777 on Wed, 02/10/2010 at 12:21 pm.

Lighten up I was joking.

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ACTUALLY, FEDERAL LAW STATES

Submitted by ODUBowman on Wed, 02/10/2010 at 11:26 am.

Actually, federal law states a convicted felon may not possess a firearm. Which means he cannot even hold or carry a firearm. Many states have similar ordinances. It has nothing to do with ownership.

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FELON

Submitted by airdog577 on Wed, 02/10/2010 at 11:23 am.

He is a felon, he cant be in possession of gun, no matter if it was his or otherwise. No job for this guy.

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N.C. Senate OKs constitutional proposal on sheriffs

The Associated Press

Friday, July 9, 2010

RALEIGH — Voters could decide whether convicted felons should be barred from running for sheriff in North Carolina.

The N.C. Senate voted Wednesday by a 46-1 margin to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot this fall that would prevent anyone convicted of a felony to serve as sheriff.

The N.C. Sheriffs' Association backs the proposed change. Six candidates for sheriff who are known felons ran unsuccessfully during the May 4 primary election, including former Davidson County Sheriff Gerald Hege.

The bill now goes to the N.C. House for consideration.

At least three-fifths of the members in the House and the Senate must approve a proposal for the N.C. Constitution before it can be voted up in a statewide referendum.

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Top Stories

Field of candidates for sheriff grows

by: Frank Taylor
(1/13/2010)

Expect a contested primary for Lincoln County sheriff this year, at least on the Republican side and possibly on both sides.

Mark Walker of Denver officially announced that he is running this week, which would ensure a primary in a Republican field that already includes David Carpenter.

Among Democrats, Terry Burgin has announced his plans to run and Sheriff Timothy L. Daugherty is planning to seek re-election.

Whether Daugherty is able to defend his office, however, will depend on the outcome of legal proceedings against him. He has been indicted on felony charges of obstruction of justice and will face trial next month. A convicted felon cannot serve as sheriff.

He also faces removal proceedings that could strip him of his office even if he isn't convicted on the criminal charges, but this would not prevent him from returning if he won this year's election.

State and federal investigations of Daugherty's administration are thought to be ongoing and he could potentially face other charges, regardless of the outcome of February's trial and removal hearing and this year's elections.

The newest candidate to make his plans official, Walker is a North Carolina highway patrolman.

"We must win back the public trust in our elected officials," Walker said in a prepared statement. "It is important to know that our elected officials are of the highest integrity and remain above reproach, particularly with regards to law enforcement."

Walker is a 1979 graduate of Gardner-Webb University, where he was captain of the football team. He has served with the Highway Patrol for 26 years, including 14 in Lincoln County. Walker chairs the board of directors of the East Lincoln Fire Department.

Among the candidates who have previously indicated they will run, Carpenter is a probation officer and reserve member of the Lincolnton police. He previously was a lieutenant in the Sheriff's Office under Sheriff Barbara Pickens.

Burgin works for the U.S. Marshal's Service and was previously the Chief of Police in Lincolnton.

Before running for sheriff in 2006, Daugherty was a jailer in Gaston County and had worked in security for Duke Energy. He also served briefly as a Lincolnton reserve police officer under Burgin.

Several other candidates are rumored to be considering a run, possibly from both parties. In addition, there are rumors of other candidates who may not be serious contenders, but who would be

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also-rans in a regional strategy intended to pry away votes from the frontrunners.

Although candidates have continued to announce their plans in recent months, the official filing period for sheriff will be in February.

What some potential candidates might do may depend no the outcome of Daugherty's trial. If the sheriff is removed from office, the Democratic Party executive board would pick a replacement.

That person would have to have filed for sheriff by Feb. 26 in order to seek election in their own right.



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Proposed NC bill prevents felons from running for sheriff - Tim Moore: "This is one of those bills that just makes common sense"

Barry Smith
2010-05-21 07:46:39

RALEIGH – Saying their proposal amounts to common sense, a group of House members are sponsoring a bill aimed at preventing convicted felons from seeking the office of sheriff in North Carolina.

“The thing that makes the sheriff’s race different than any other race is that the sheriff has to carry a gun; and a felon cannot lawfully carry a gun,” said Rep. Tim Moore, R-Cleveland. “This is one of those bills that just makes common sense.”

This year, six convicted felons ran for various sheriff’s offices in the state, including David Marrow, who lost a GOP primary in Cleveland County. The others were in Davidson, Washington, Wilkes, Avery and McDowell counties.

Rep. Dan Ingle, a retired police chief in the town of Elon, said North Carolinians were lucky that none of the convicted felon candidates won.

“Our Founding Fathers probably didn’t even think that we’d have a felon that would even file for sheriff,” said Ingle, an Alamance County Republican.

Ingle noted that it’s illegal for a convicted felon to carry a firearm.

“What good is the sheriff going to be if they’re out on a call and they cannot carry a firearm?” Ingle asked rhetorically.

The bill would require an amendment to the N.C. Constitution. If approved by the General Assembly, it would be submitted to North Carolina voters for ratification during the Nov. 2 general election.

Such a proposal is supported by the N.C. Sheriff’s Association. It mirrors a similar proposal introduced by Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson.

Both bills have broad bipartisan support. Ingle said that the House bill will likely be filed this coming week.

“We want people with good character to hold public office,” Ingle said. “A sheriff is the only one that actually has the position where they should be armed. It’s the only position that can take away an individual’s rights by saying, ‘You’re under arrest.’”

Barry Smith can be reached at barrysmith@freedom.com.

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9:40 AM on May 21, 2010

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Makes good sense to not allow convicted felons in any elected office. We also need a height requirement for all elected officials too. Just like the Carowinds signs for rides only this one needs to read. You must to be at least this tall to waste our tax money."



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Hege to run for sheriff, again

by Karissa Minn

09.13.09 - 03:17 pm

Gerald Hege, controversial former sheriff of Davidson County, will run again for sheriff next year, his son told FOX8 News.

The earliest Hege could file for the Nov. 2010 election is February, but FOX8 reports that "Vote for Hege" signs already have appeared across the county.

Hege held the office of Davidson County Sheriff for 10 years, beginning in 1994. During his decade as sheriff, Hege's eccentric management style and public persona made him a polarizing figure in the county. The self-proclaimed "America's Toughest Sheriff" had the Davidson County Jail painted pink with crying blue teddy bears, removed all TVs and books — except the Bible — from the jail and reinstated chain gang labor.

Hege, a Vietnam veteran, was also well-known for wearing paramilitary fatigues and driving a sheriff's car painted with silver spiders. One year, he sent out Christmas cards featuring him and the severed head of Osama bin Laden, titled "Happy Ramadan."

In May 2004, Hege pleaded guilty to two felony counts of obstruction of justice for attempting to cover up money missing from the vice and narcotics unit of the sheriff's department. He was removed from office and served three years of probation, which ended in 2007.

Hege was indicted on five counts of embezzlement by a public officer, five counts of obtaining property by false pretenses, two counts of obstruction of justice, one count of endeavoring to intercept oral communication, one count of aiding and abetting to endeavor to intercept oral communication and one count of aiding and abetting to obtain property by false pretenses. As part of his plea bargain, 13 of the 15 charges were dismissed.

Allegations against Hege included that he misappropriated county funds and equipment, ordered prisoner abuse, promoted racial profiling, falsified crime statistics and engaged in speeding and reckless driving in his "spider car."

Current Davidson County Sheriff David Grice, who has held the office since 2004, said that he plans to run for re-election in 2010.

"I will be running next year on the Republican ticket for sheriff in the primary and general elections," Grice said. "I feel like the sheriff's office under my administration has done an excellent job, and we've earned a second term."

He said that Hege's "in-your-face" leadership style was diametrically opposed to his own, which he considers to be more professional.

"We run an honest, professional organization with good management," Grice said. "My interest in being sheriff is what is best for the people of the county, the

victims of crimes and the taxpayers.”

Grice also said that as a convicted felon, Hege cannot own a firearm, but he is allowed to run for public office.

Staff Writer Karissa Minn can be reached at 888-3576 or newsdesk@tvilletimes.com.

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Proposed bill would bar felons from running for sheriff 1 month ago

Letters to the Editor 5 months ago

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« Gina Weste wrote on Friday, Nov 06 at 10:22 AM »

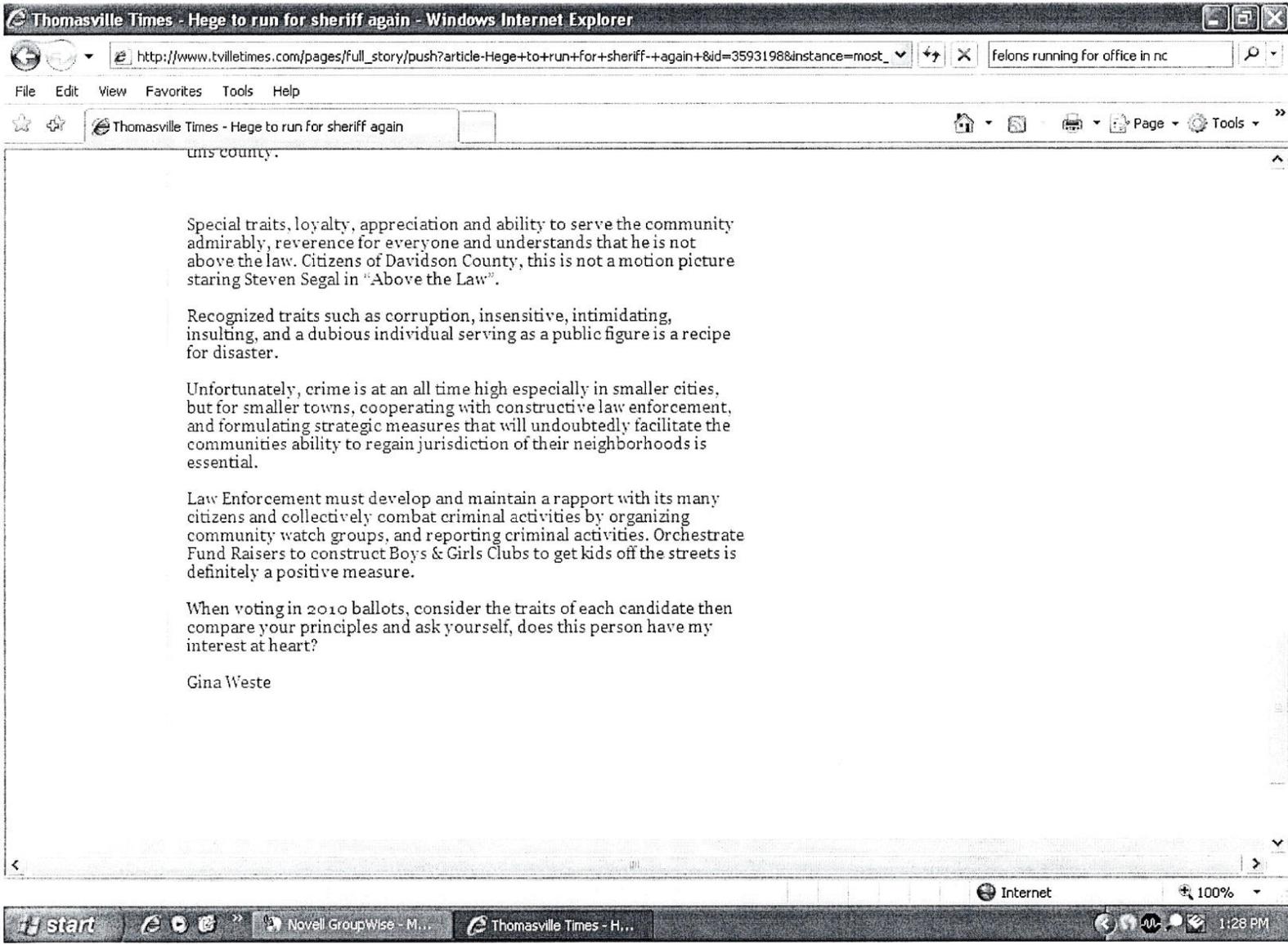
Considering the vast opportunities for citizens of the United States to excel in life, the pathway is unlocked enabling all legal citizens and residents in this great country to achieve individual goals. For those courageous and talented individuals who pursue their goals through much dedication, loyalty, commitment, sacrifices, and most of all reverence for her/himself, and humanity depicts a conventional citizen.

But, when elected to serve the people in senior law enforcement capacity the individual is held to higher standards, and must represent her/him in such a manner. On the other hand, while serving in an official capacity and indicted with two felony counts the official ascertains it best to resign. Now, after the end of the probation period the individual now wants to return to the arena and serve the citizens of your county once again!

Why, would intellectual citizens of Davidson County consider re-electing a convicted felon? Did the convicted felon receive a pardon? If so, based on what legislation? Accountability and reverence for laws and the public is first and foremost.

Consider re-electing the individual currently serving admirably in the position. A sociable, responsive, and jovial but ingenuous official is a face in the community trying to make a difference for the good people of this county.

Special traits: loyalty, cooperation and ability to serve the community.



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Special traits, loyalty, appreciation and ability to serve the community admirably, reverence for everyone and understands that he is not above the law. Citizens of Davidson County, this is not a motion picture starring Steven Segal in "Above the Law".

Recognized traits such as corruption, insensitive, intimidating, insulting, and a dubious individual serving as a public figure is a recipe for disaster.

Unfortunately, crime is at an all time high especially in smaller cities, but for smaller towns, cooperating with constructive law enforcement, and formulating strategic measures that will undoubtedly facilitate the communities ability to regain jurisdiction of their neighborhoods is essential.

Law Enforcement must develop and maintain a rapport with its many citizens and collectively combat criminal activities by organizing community watch groups, and reporting criminal activities. Orchestrate Fund Raisers to construct Boys & Girls Clubs to get kids off the streets is definitely a positive measure.

When voting in 2010 ballots, consider the traits of each candidate then compare your principles and ask yourself, does this person have my interest at heart?

Gina Weste

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Hege loss doesn't settle issue: Ban still wanted on felon candidates

By Paul Garber | Journal Reporter

Gerald Hege may have lost his bid Tuesday to regain his old job as Davidson County sheriff, but the legal issues he raised with his candidacy remain.

State Sen. Stan Bingham said he will continue to push for a bill that would prohibit convicted felons from becoming sheriffs in North Carolina.

And a citizens group that challenged Hege's candidacy will get a hearing before the Davidson County Board of Elections on Friday.

Incumbent Sheriff David Grice won a decisive victory with 61 percent of the vote in Tuesday's GOP primary.

But Bingham, R-Davidson, said that the issue is too important to let it die with Hege's candidacy.

Bingham proposed the bill last year in anticipation that Hege would run.

Hege's defeat could dampen enthusiasm for the bill, Bingham said.

But he said he would continue to push for the bill, as long as it has the support of the N.C. Sheriff's Association, which voted unanimously in March to back it.

Bingham said that the fact that other convicted felons were running for the sheriff this year in other counties showed that the bill was more than just a Davidson County issue.

Losing their bids for sheriff yesterday were Willie Tharpe in Wilkes County, Robert E. "Nub" Taylor in Avery County and former Sheriff Stanley James in Washington County.

In September 2003, Hege was indicted on 15 felony counts -- five counts of obtaining property by false pretense; five counts of embezzlement by a public officer; two counts of common-law obstruction of justice; and one count each of endeavor to intercept oral communication, aiding and abetting an endeavor to intercept oral communication, and aiding and abetting obtaining property by false pretense.

The charges were the result of a sweeping investigation of the sheriff's office that included affidavits from more than 20 sheriff's officers and staff members. Hege pleaded guilty to two felony counts of obstruction of justice and was removed from office.

He received a suspended sentence and house arrest. After he completed his probation in 2007, he was eligible to file this year to run again for sheriff.

Hege's loss also won't derail a challenge to his candidacy made before the Davidson County elections board last month.

A grass-roots group argued in part that Hege, as a convicted felon, would not be able to carry a gun -- but if elected he would have supervised armed deputies.

The board postponed a decision on the issue until Friday, three days after the primary.

Melisia Prout, one of the group's organizers, said they will continue the challenge even though Hege lost.

She said she would have preferred a decision before the primary, but now that the primary is over and Hege has lost, she wants to continue the challenge in the hopes that Hege would not be able to run again.

"There's always another election in four years," she said. "We want to finish it now so that in four years it won't be an issue again."

Hege did not return a call for comment.

In all, Grice got 9,631 votes to Hege's 3,838, according to complete but unofficial results.

He won all 43 precincts in Davidson County. Of the larger precincts, Hege came close in only one, losing the Gumtree precinct to Grice 164-155. In Tyro, Grice beat Hege by 300 votes. In the Silver Hill precinct, Grice beat Hege by a vote of 490-103.

pgarber@wsjournal.com.

727-7327



Posted by (billy24) on 05/06/2010 at 05:57 am.

that is a great idea.nip it the bud as barney says.you never know when another fool will decide he wants to be sheriff

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Posted by (Paladin) on 05/06/2010 at 06:05 am.

I agree completely. This is one law we NEED on the books. Come on folks. Let's all get behind this and keep fools like Hege from "protecting" us.

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Posted by (rockyroad65) on 05/06/2010 at 06:24 am.

Don't back off Senator Bingham. Get this bill passed. Anyone who knows Hege's EGO knows he will not disappear unless he is ineligible to run....

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Posted by (BuenaVistaYuppie) on 05/06/2010 at 08:58 am.

The fact that so many voted for Hege is scary enough to hopefully get this bill passed. There are enough criminals holding political office already. We don't need convicted ones in those offices.

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Posted by (meenyt) on 05/06/2010 at 11:24 am.

As a former Hege supporter, I hope this bill is passed. There shouldn't be a felon running any government office, especially any in law enforcement. Someone answer this for me. Can a convicted felon still vote?

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Posted by (ryan73) on 05/06/2010 at 11:40 am.

Meeny-

Convicted felons can apply to have their voting rights reinstated after a period of time. I can't remember what the period is, but it's several years.

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Posted by (ryan73) on 05/06/2010 at 11:45 am.

Meeny- I looked it up...

"Automatically restored upon completion of sentence, probation and/or parole. For a North Carolina conviction, the agency having jurisdiction over a felon at the time he or she was unconditionally discharged is required to issue a certificate to the clerk of the General Court of Justice in the county where the felon was convicted, and that clerk shall then file the certificate with the original record at no fee. Once this is done, the felon can simply register and vote."

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Posted by (DemonDeaconGirl) on 05/06/2010 at 12:25 pm.

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Posted by (DemonDeaconGirl) on 05/06/2010 at 12:25 pm.

I hope this passes before the egomaniac can run again and do any potential damage. I still can't believe there were people dumb enough to vote for a convicted felon in the first place.

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Sun Journal

Bill aimed at preventing felons from seeking sheriff's office

Barry Smith
2010-05-23 21:13:40

RALEIGH — Saying their proposal amounts to common sense, a group of House members are sponsoring a bill aimed at preventing convicted felons from seeking the office of sheriff in North Carolina.

"The thing that makes the sheriff's race different than any other race is that the sheriff has to carry a gun; and a felon cannot lawfully carry a gun," said Rep. Tim Moore, R-Cleveland. "This is one of those bills that just makes common sense."

This year, six convicted felons ran for various sheriff's offices in the state, including David Marrow, who lost a GOP primary in Cleveland County. The others were in Davidson, Washington, Wilkes, Avery and McDowell counties.

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"Our Founding Fathers probably didn't even think that we'd have a felon that would even file for sheriff," said Ingle, an Alamance County Republican.

Ingle noted that it's illegal for a convicted felon to carry a firearm.

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Both bills have broad bipartisan support. Ingle said that the House bill will likely be filed this coming week.

"We want people with good character to hold public office," Ingle said. "A sheriff is the only one that actually has the position where they should be armed. It's the only position that can take away an individual's rights by saying, 'You're under arrest.'"

Barry Smith can be reached at barrysmith@freedom.com.

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6 comments

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[backdoor](#)

Score: 3

10:36 PM on May 23, 2010

I agree with this bill and back the NC Sheriff's Association 150%!!!!!!!!!!!!

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[newbernghost](#)

Score: 0

10:41 PM on May 23, 2010

this should be the bill of common sense. police carry guns felons cant. so the state will waste time and money on this and debate it til no end for what?

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[autarchic](#)

Score: 3

3:00 AM on May 24, 2010

"We want people with good character to hold public office." and in all offices in Washington, DC. However, we have a criminal gang running it.

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1 reply



[goombahray](#)

Score: 0

12:25 PM on May 25, 2010

It's almost laughable that this needs to be brought up for a vote as common sense again takes a back seat to inentitude

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goombanray
12:26 PM on May 25, 2010

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It's almost laughable that this needs to be brought up for a vote as common sense again takes a back seat to ineptitude.

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Former NC sheriff runs again, this time as felon

Web Exclusives

2010-02-10 07:45:29

LEXINGTON, N.C. (AP) - A former North Carolina sheriff who claimed national notice for tough-on-crime tactics and later admitted to felony crimes is running again.

Multiple media outlets reported Wednesday that Gerald Hege has filed to seek election as Davidson County sheriff.

The Republican resigned as sheriff in 2004 after a decade in office and pleaded guilty to two felony counts of obstruction of justice. Prosecutors say Hege tried to cover up money missing from his department's vice and narcotics unit.

His probation ended in 2007, but he is barred from owning a gun.

As sheriff, Hege starred on a national cable television program highlighting what he called America's toughest jail, where he painted cells pink. He drove a high-powered car and removed television sets and books from the jail.

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Voters will get chance to bar felons from running for sheriff

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH

Voters in six counties, including Davidson and Wilkes, decided in May that they didn't want former lawbreakers as their sheriffs.

Now in November, voters across North Carolina will get a chance to remove them permanently from the sheriff candidate pool.

The House unanimously agreed yesterday with the Senate's proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit convicted felons from serving as sheriff.

The House will need to approve the language one more time today before it shows up on the Nov. 2 ballot. A majority of voters would have to agree to the amendment before it becomes part of the constitution.

Six known felons ran unsuccessfully for sheriff in the May 4 primary election, including ex-Sheriff Stanley James in Washington County; Gerald Hege, former Davidson County sheriff; and Willie Tharpe of Wilkes County. They all lost.

But they shouldn't have been qualified to run to begin with, said Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson, the bill's chief proponent.

"This shouldn't have to be, especially if you've got a CEO of a large law-enforcement agency," said Bingham, who worked hard to get Hege defeated in May. "It's a little bit different being a felon and getting a job at Hardee's or somewhere else."

The state constitution has few restrictions for people running for elective office. There are minimum ages to serve as governor or in the legislature. Judges, district attorneys and the attorney general must be duly "authorized to practice law in the courts of this state." Convicted felons can run for office -- including sheriff -- once their rights of citizenship are restored, usually when they have completed their punishment.

The N.C. Sheriffs Association has pushed for the restriction on the office, arguing that it is a matter of ethics for a county's top elected law-enforcement officer to follow the law. The association's standards already bar convicted felons from serving as sheriff's deputies.

A convicted felon also is barred from owning a gun, which could put a sheriff at a disadvantage, especially in small departments in which the sheriff is more than an administrator, said Rep. Dan Ingle, R-Alamance, before the bill was tentatively approved in the House by a vote of 112-0.

Although the association isn't aware of any felon ever being elected a sheriff, Edgecombe County Sheriff James Knight, said he believes that the large number of felons who ran last month has helped legislators take up an issue that the association has pushed for years.

"It's sort of hit home and reality set in once they saw the people that were running for sheriff," said Knight, the association's president.

Eddie Caldwell, a lobbyist for the association, said he knew of no opposition to the bill. But at least one of the primary candidates -- David Morrow of Cleveland County -- said that there is no need to change the constitution because voters are already making their feelings known when they cast ballots in the sheriff's races. Morrow has run for sheriff four times, and he received 26 percent of the vote in May's GOP primary.

"That issue is already decided by the people when they vote," said Morrow, who served nine months in prison on what he called a drug-related felony charge of conspiracy. He got out of prison 19 years ago Thursday. He said he was innocent of the charge stemming from \$300 in marijuana that was sold on his property.

Bingham said that the voters will get final say on the issue by way of the amendment.

If the amendment gets on the ballot, it would mark the first constitutional referendum since 2004, when voters narrowly agreed to a change that made it easier for local governments to issue debt for some public building projects.

Laura Graff
has a mission
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LAURA GRAFF
city government reporter
for the
Winston-Salem Journal



Bingham said that the voters will get final say on the issue by way of the amendment.
If the amendment gets on the ballot, it would mark the first constitutional referendum since 2004, when voters narrowly agreed to a change that made it easier for local governments to issue debt for some public building projects.

Reader Comments
Voice your opinion by posting a comment.

1

Posted by (DOG) on 07/01/2010 at 08:06 am.
A total waste of effort, if it doesn't include, All Office Holders, both Appointed and Elected, not just limited to Sheriffs.

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Posted by (ForsythChump) on 07/01/2010 at 08:20 am.
It would never get out of the house if encompassed all offices. I'll be glad to vote for this in November.

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Posted by (watcher13) on 07/01/2010 at 09:09 am.
Why dont we as voters add one line to include ALL elected officials and if they are convicted, they lose there retirement fund. It makes me sick to think that speaker Black gets his retirement check sitting in prison along with who knows how many else

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Posted by (JohnG) on 07/01/2010 at 09:56 am.

I will be voting against this. We should be allowed to elect whomever we want for any office and a man should be able to pay his debt and move on with his life. If democracy has bad results than I suggest a better change like limiting who can vote in the first place. And if our sorry representatives had any honor they'd at least have made this apply to any office holder.

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Posted by (evanst) on 07/01/2010 at 10:13 am.

This should include ALL elected officials. You know d##n well that OUR legislature would do nothing to affect the deals they are getting. Feather your own nest at the tax payer's expense.

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http://www2.wnct.com/news/2010/may/06/legislator_felons_shouldnt_run_for_sheriff_in_nc-ar-167981/



Published: May 06, 2010

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Legislator: Felons shouldn't run for sheriff in NC

By Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) - Four felons who ran for sheriff in North Carolina all lost this week, but a legislator says he'll still push for a bill to prevent felons from running.

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) - Four felons who ran for sheriff in North Carolina all lost this week, but a legislator says he'll still push for a bill to prevent felons from running.

The Winston-Salem Journal reported Thursday that Sen. Stan Bingham said he'll continue pushing the bill even though the men lost. The Republican proposed his bill in anticipation that Gerald Hege would run for his old job as Davidson County sheriff.

Hege lost to Sheriff David Grice in Tuesday's GOP primary. Hege had pleaded guilty to two felony counts that resulted from a sweeping investigation of the sheriff's office.

Bingham says he'll push the bill as long as the North Carolina Sheriff's Association supports it. The association voted unanimously in March to back the bill.

Former Washington County Sheriff Stanley James also lost.

Information from: Winston-Salem Journal, <http://www.journalnow.com>

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Former NC sheriff runs again, this time as felon



Former NC sheriff runs again, this time as felon

by Associated Press

Posted on February 10, 2010 at 11:44 AM

LEXINGTON, N.C. (AP) -- A former North Carolina sheriff who claimed national notice for tough-on-crime tactics and later admitted to felony crimes is running again.

Multiple media outlets reported Wednesday that Gerald Hege has filed to seek election as Davidson County sheriff.

The Republican resigned as sheriff in 2004 after a decade in office and pleaded guilty to two felony counts of obstruction of justice. Prosecutors say Hege tried to cover up money missing from his department's vice and narcotics unit.

His probation ended in 2007, but he is barred from owning a gun.

As sheriff, Hege starred on a national cable television program highlighting what he called America's toughest jail, where he painted cells pink. He drove a high-powered car and removed television sets and books from the jail.

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bubba2 said on February 10, 2010 at 3:38 PM

it amaze me how these people put their hand on the bible to uphold the law and they break the law sad part they get away with it or make some excuse why they did it .seems to be the story across this country anymore.



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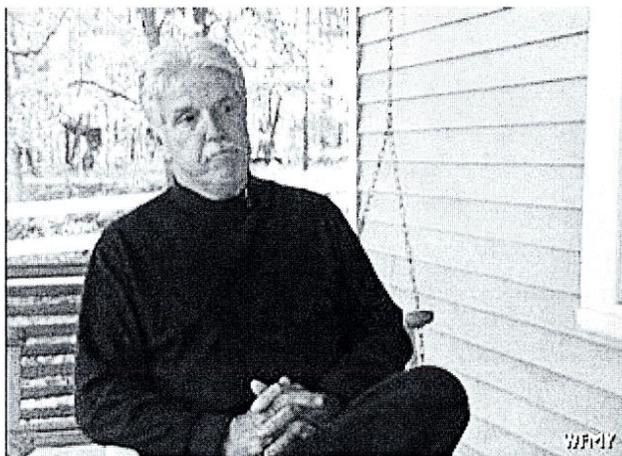
news.com - 11/11/2009 12:33:25 PM

Convicted Felon, Gerald Hege, Says He's Running For Sheriff

Mac Ingraham

Created: 11/5/2009 12:33:25 PM

Updated: 11/6/2009 1:33:06 PM



Lexington, NC -- The name of a candidate on campaign signs across one part of the Triad is causing a stir.

The race isn't until next year, but signs already have people wondering if a convicted felon is running for sheriff in Davidson County.

WFMY News 2's Mac Ingraham spoke exclusively to the man behind the name.

The state constitution says he can run again.

You may remember Gerald Hege as the "no deals sheriff" -- with the spider patrol car -- the pink jail cells -- and the chain gangs.

The former Davidson County Sheriff pleaded guilty to two counts of obstruction of justice while in office and was removed from the job.

Now, some voters in the county want him back.

Gerald Hege meets with friends most weekday mornings for coffee and conversation.

But six months ago -- Hege says some of those friends started saying he should run again.

Soon after -- they asked for campaign signs.

He gave them some but told them it didn't mean he'd run for sure.

"I'll bring 5 old yard signs and if you guys put them up and if I get five calls the same day then we would be rolling," explained Hege.

The phone messages started pouring in --

"My dad wanted me to tell you he really hopes you run again he thinks you're the best sheriff we've ever had," expressed one caller.

"Those signs don't have a lot of phone numbers on them so for someone to be curious enough to go back look up in the book call me about it I said you know that will get a lot of people talking and we got 21 calls the first night," said Hege.

"I've got a lot of people that wants to vote for you including me," said another caller.

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What started with just a couple of old signs planted the seeds for new signs ... With Hege footing the bill to meet the demand.

"It's a phenomenal thing it really is it blows my mind," Hege exclaimed.

In fact when we were with the former sheriff --- and the spider car he once patrolled in he drew a crowd.

WFMY News 2's Mac Ingraham asked if people are pushing him to run.

"Oh, sure. I mean that's how when people call you that's different from knocking on someone's door and saying I'm running for office how about voting for me," answered Hege. "And people want these signs. First they want one or two then they want 10 or 12. Now we're at almost a 1000 signs. For a politician, that is unheard of. That is a dream come true. That is something that money can't buy for someone to ask you for a sign."

Now Hege did serve house arrest and three years of probation for the two obstruction of justice convictions.

He admits he misses the job of sheriff.

The question is does he have enough support to really get back in office.

It's so unusual that a state senator realized something should be done to keep it from happening.

"Gerald," News 2's Mac Ingraham asked the former sheriff, "we've seen the signs. We've heard the rumors. We're here now to ask you 'Are you running for sheriff in 2010?'"

"Well, I will be a candidate for sheriff in 2010 as a Republican. as a conservative Republican," answered Hege.

It's a far cry from how he left office six years ago after pleaded guilty to those two obstruction of justice charges.

"It wasn't a good day. It wasn't a good day, but you know the laws are made for everyone and I've always been a firm believer you know if you do the crime you do the time."

Hege did his time including 3 year's probation and a 3-month house arrest

He reflects on the 13 other charges dropped by state prosecutors including embezzlement - - obtaining property by false pretenses -- and wire tapping.

"I wouldn't plead guilty to those. - I would go to jail first because it was things I absolutely had nothing to do with," said Hege.

"You don't go after someone for that long to drop 13 charges. There's only one way they drop it they can't win," he added.

So, Hege has been speaking in churches, meeting with supporters, and delivering campaign signs to begin his bid to return to the office of sheriff.

But - - opponents say not so fast.

"I got the petition for removal and I got all the sworn testimony and here it is," State Senator Stan Bingham began.

Bingham wanted a law to prevent felons from running for sheriff.

But he realized - - it would require an amendment to the state constitution which rarely happens.

"That sheriffs are excluded meaning that anyone serving as sheriff can be a felon when they've served their time etc. - even though they can never carry a firearm," he elaborated.

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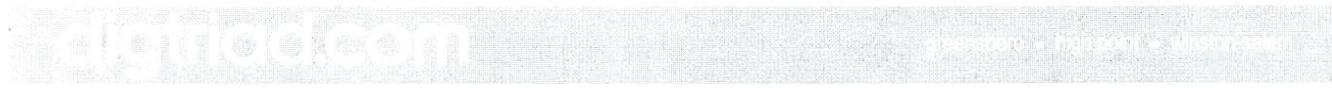
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Senator Bingham believes the decision will come down to the voters.

But he says although the state dropped those 13 other charges the voters shouldn't let it go without reading the public case against the sheriff.

"You know if we had no one else to run and this had been one felony count rather than 15 and we had one page of testimony against someone who had a grudge against Gerald but this is 113 pages of testimony 34 officers so for goodness sakes," stated Bingham.

Officers also testified to working on county time to raise money for the former sheriff's non-profit Blue Line Foundation - - and they alleged a misuse of funds by Hege.

"A lot of the officers when you read through this were under the fear of intimidation of losing their jobs," Bingham added.

"My thing is like this you know when you punish the dog it's punishment, but when you beat the dog constantly it's cruelty. And it comes a point in time you've got to stop beating the dog," argued Hege.

Hege brushes off that testimony because he was never convicted of any of it.

But he does agree - - the voters will decide.

"I want to at least be able to lay down at night and say well I gave them a chance to tell me what they want me to do. And once they speak you got to listen. I've listened for three times and that's what I'll do the next time," Hege concluded.

Ingraham asked the former sheriff if he will do things differently if he returns to office.

He said the one major change will be he'll have an attorney - a personal attorney -- sitting across the hallway from him that he'll retain himself.

Right now, as a felon Hege wouldn't be able to carry a gun as sheriff if elected.

Well last month an ex-con challenged that law and the state Supreme Court ruled in favor of him.

Hege - -believes that ruling could allow him to carry a gun if elected sheriff.

As for these court documents we have put them

online below for viewers to look at and make up their own minds.



Read affidavits and court documents from the case against Gerald Hege

Gerald Hege faces a number of candidates if he files to run for the office.

Incumbent Sheriff David Grice says he will be a candidate for re-election next year.

Grice says, "The sheriff's office is doing an excellent job, and we feel that the citizens of our county will recognize that good work with their support at election time."

Terry Price is another republican candidate planning to run for sheriff.

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dt Convicted Felon, Gerald Hege, Says He's Running For...

AirDoc wrote:
If the good citizens of Davidson County vote this egotistical moron back in to office, they deserve every idiotic thing he does. He gave all law enforcement agencies in the surrounding area a black eye. Anyone can do a better job at Sheriff than Hege - even my neighbor's dog.
11/8/2008 4:34 PM EST on DigTriad.com
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dalecole43 wrote:
Let them vote the idiot back in. But dont come crying when you do, Because you will have what you asked for. Why not do yourself and us a favor and build a fence around Davidson county. The way you talk about it all there is there are druggies and thieves. We are now in the twenty first century well every one except Davidson county of course.
11/8/2008 4:20 PM EST on DigTriad.com
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readbtweenlines wrote:
tiggerific ~ how about we just let child molesters be teachers? They've done their time.... Lets give them another chance.... Shall we???
11/8/2008 3:35 PM EST on DigTriad.com
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Vernster1 wrote:
The man was CONVICTED of Obstructing the Justice he was SWORN to uphold. If he runs, then empty out the jails he was head over and let those crooks run for City Council, Mayor, Chief of Police, etc. On second thought, I'd doubt we'd notice the difference.....
11/8/2008 3:26 PM EST on DigTriad.com
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lildickens wrote:
I want to know why a convicted felon is allowed to rerun for sheriff and tell us to walk a straight line and look what he does. It's not right. If Hege does get back to being the sheriff of Davidson County then he should hire back those officers he took down with him and give them a raise and a promotion. About getting back his gun is setting a wrong example because murderers and other convicted felonies would also have the right to get theirs back. God didn't make him better than any one else. If people don't give America back to God it's gonna get a lot more worse than it already is.
I pray that Jesus saves the world.
11/8/2008 3:05 PM EST on DigTriad.com
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start Novell GroupWise - M... Convicted Felon, Ger... 3:15 PM

https://www.digtriad.com/news/palmhege_does_p...
11/8/2008 2:22 PM EST on DigTriad.com

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tiggerific wrote:

Ya'll are just too funny. Your up in arms over a "convicted felon" running for office. What happened to giving someone a second chance? How many of you know of a perfect politician? Each and every person in office had to do a favor, cook the books, change the stats or kiss someones rear end to get where they are. Those of you without sin can cast the first stone. Judge not lest you be judged yourselves. I for one am pleased to hear that he is being allowed to run. He did the time for his crime. This proves that there is still a modicum of justice and law upheld in our great country. Shoot, I wouldn't mind him running here in Alamance if the position becomes open and available.

11/8/2008 2:23 PM EST on DigTriad.com

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bowlingone wrote:

Hege is a big joke. Yeah crime was done if you don't count his crimes. He is arrogant and self centered. he should have served time in prison not just house arrest and probation.

11/8/2008 2:31 PM EST on DigTriad.com

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readbtweenlines wrote:

Ok...much better...I didn't like my last name "lifehappens"...got too much flack from you all lol

11/8/2008 1:42 PM EST on DigTriad.com

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lifehappens wrote:

docih, um, I wouldn't hold my breath. Seems Hege is scum himself for abuse of power. How many crimes have you comitted? You seem awfully supportive for some reason..... not to sound like another commentor on here.....but,, I'm just sayin'... :)

11/8/2008 1:38 PM EST on DigTriad.com

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 horsemannc wrote:
Have the idiots of davidson county forgot that this is the man who said to his officers "pull over anyone darker than snow." If the people of Davidson county are stupid enough to elect this clown then they get what they asked for. And he is a clown. Like the guy said before "Bozo"

11/8/2009 11:02 PM EST on DigTriad.com

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 unPoliticCorrect wrote:
A convicted felon in the state of North Carolina CAN run for Sheriff because he does not have to be sworn in. He can then carry a gun the same way a civilian can. So if the people in Davidson County want him to be thier Sheriff, then so be it. I do not think a felon should be the top dog in the county, but he does have the right to run.

11/8/2009 7:19 PM EST on DigTriad.com

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 newswatcher101 wrote:
How can a convicted felon be a sheriff felons cant carry guns and we all know this isnt mayberry. I just moved to davidson, but if he gets reelected we will be moving and I all I see around us are those signs saying vote Hege. Do you all know it is illegal for a felon to own or carry a weapon?

11/8/2009 6:04 PM EST on DigTriad.com

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 readbtweenlines wrote:
Davidson County ~ go ahead, vote the bozo back in as your sheriff, give him the reigns again and see how he steers the horse this time..... The EGO will be enlarged, the head will swell, the crimes by him will be much worse.... the lies and deceit will increase... He'll think he's a god when YOU the stupid idiots vote him back in.... Geeesh... Good luck with that :)

11/8/2009 11:14 PM EST on DigTriad.com

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 These3Wilson wrote:
I wouldn't be so sure MagicMixR - from the looks of it, he's got a lot of supporters...

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These3Wilsons wrote:

I wouldn't be so sure MagicMixR - from the looks of it, he's got a lot of supporters...

11/8/2009 4:04 PM EST on DigTriad.com

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MagicMixR wrote:

---Hege will NEVER get back in Office. Too many important folks out there will stop this from happening. Having lived in Davidson County during his dictatorship and living thru his stupid roadblocks 24/7 I am speaking from experience in saying-- The Voters will not put him back in.

11/8/2009 4:45 PM EST on DigTriad.com

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AirDoc wrote:

KenW51 - Please qualify your statement about Hege being good for law enforcement. I would argue that Hege disgraced law enforcement agencies everywhere every time he spoke or wore his uniform out in public. Do you know something no one else does? Everyone in uniform I know who ever worked near the man thought he was an raving lunatic who acted as if he was always above the law.

11/8/2009 4:42 PM EST on DigTriad.com

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lifehappens wrote:

Perfect example here of abuse of power. Allow this to happen, and what's next? Here we all complain about politicians and how crooked they are..."Vote them out" we say, yet, there's folks out there that condone THIS?? Wake the heck up people....

11/6/2008 12:43 PM EST on DigTriad.com

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These3Wilsons wrote:

This scenario just doesn't seem fair, but it's how our judicial system and laws work:

I know someone that's been trying to get on with every police department, sheriffs department, and state troopers in this area. He has ONE traffic violation from 9 years ago: Careless and Wreckless Driving. He was a teenager then. No one will hire him for this violation almost a decade ago. Despite this, he has a completely clean record. He's been turned down by EVERYONE 3 years in a row. But Mr. Hege here can commit a FELONY and gain the support of voters in the same county he committed the crime in. I agree that he was a kickin-butt, takin names sheriff before - now he's a convicted felon. He can't even hire someone with the record he has, but he can be in charge. WTH?

I mean, I'm just sayin...

11/6/2008 12:42 PM EST on DigTriad.com

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maroon15 wrote:

So if you think someone does a good job, his crimes should be forgiven?? Really??? Even when part of his charges were for FALSIFYING his crime rate statistics??? Open your eyes people! You are believing in a fantasy!

11/6/2008 12:20 PM EST on DigTriad.com

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rbr2010 wrote:

For those of you who want Hege back in office due to "low crime statistics" read this piece from his court documents:

"He has through his management directives, personal conduct and direction of his subordinates caused and implemented procedures that deliberately created false and misleading crime rate statistics being compiled and submitted to the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation." I believe it is in your best interest to read the rest of the court documents as well.

11/6/2008 11:28:46 EST on DigTriad.com

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Hurricane56 wrote:
Some people on this board don't seem to get what being a conservative is about. Since when is it "conservative" to run a vice department that ran dope deals out of the Tiki Club in High Point? They busted other dealers, all the way up until the time they got caught. At least Sheriff Grice really does bust drug dealers, not set up shop and compete with them.

If you knew a few cops in Davidson, as I did, you know that they didn't all share the love that some of you adoring fans had. It's one thing to shoot your mouth off to any reporter with a microphone about what a tough guy you are. It's another to get to the end of a long shift and have to keep working because you haven't written out your quota of penny ante traffic tickets.

The absolute in bull crap, though, is the way this guy calls everybody who dares to sass him a liberal. This guy is the biggest winner walking from today's liberal courts. How does somebody go into court with 15 felonies, and get it reduced to 2 little baby slaps? He gets to walk around in his house with his little ankle bracelet for a few months, then they put him right back out on the streets. But if we complain about the little smooch he got from a liberal court, WE'RE the bleeding hearts.

11:52 AM EST on DigTriad.com
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chuckbrown wrote:
It said is a sad state of America when people are glad that a convicted Felon is trying to run for sheriff, and you Davidson County residents must have forgot about his own undercover drug officers getting locked up for selling drugs and robbing drugs themselves, I can imagine Davidson County being scared to traffic and sell drugs in there if Hege and his cohorts robbing and stealing and lock you up, I would be scared too, they was holding the power. A Convicted Felon who plead guilty to keep from going to jail, did the crime but couldn't even do the time a freaking coward but wants to be the man in charge you supporters of him are crazy indeed or something else, all I can say is that if OBAMA had a felony he wouldn't have even made into politics, so people please have some common sense and think about A Felon, your are a second class citizen in this country, no military, no police force, no job, no school grants, no vote, etc. but sheriff come on people.

11:58 AM EST on DigTriad.com
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sisie wrote:
I personally liked Gerald Hege's way of running a jail. We coddle our prisoners too much! We need to make jail as unpleasant as possible to insure that criminals would not want to come back, "put a lock on that swinging door". Now if all the counties in North Carolina would adopt Hege's policies, then I bet we could slash crime in half, (or at least run the criminals to another state!) To re-elect him after his felonies, I think would send a bad message to our youth. You cannot commit a crime without having consequences no matter who you are!!

interest to read the rest of the court documents as well.

11/9/2009 11:36 AM EST on DigTriad.com

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chris1583 wrote:

I don't think a Convicted Felon should be about to run for sheriff, even if he was before. If they let him run for sheriff again, does that mean that any felon in NC run for Governor or City Council, Mayor. I think if he messed up the first time that he shouldn't be able to run again.

11/9/2009 11:36 AM EST on DigTriad.com

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VoxPublicus wrote:

Docih, Hege is a hypocrite himself. Bornagain45, yes we all do things we shouldn't...but we all don't commit felonies. Hege is an egotistical maniac...and extremist. So was Hitler.

11/9/2009 11:08 AM EST on DigTriad.com

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eagle09 wrote:
To pwilliams50: Yes, the link is up about 5 lines from the bottom of the story. It says:
Read affidavits and court documents from the case against Gerald Hege
Just click on that link and plan to read awhile. Interesting stuff for sure!
11/6/2009 10:16 AM EST on DigTriad.com
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nevaeh wrote:
What good is it going to do the county if he is placed back in office? Have you all forgotten that he has no way of protecting himself if he is attacked? You might as well have Andy Griffith in office. Well, at least he did not commit stupid crimes!
11/6/2009 9:41 AM EST on DigTriad.com
Recommend (3) Report Abuse Permalink

pwilliams50 wrote:
To Eagle: Where do I find the link? on this page? Thanks
11/6/2009 9:41 AM EST on DigTriad.com
Recommend Report Abuse Permalink

fearlessone7 wrote:
The fact that he committed the offense while in office lets me know he is no different than the criminals he puts behind bars..heck no he shouldn't be sherriff.
11/6/2009 9:29 AM EST on DigTriad.com
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eagle09 wrote:
(continued) felon served as your Sheriff. I urge all voters in Davidson County to read and research who you are supporting for such an important office. Get the facts, then make an informed decision utilizing common sense and education. If you do that, there is no way that you will support a corrupt elected official back into the Office of Sheriff in Davidson County.
11/6/2009 9:48 AM EST on DigTriad.com
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eagle09 wrote:
Let me start by saying that I do not live in Davidson County and I don't know Hege or anyone else who now or formerly worked for the Sheriff's Department. With that said, I urge you to read through all of the affidavits that are linked in this story to get a better understanding of what his department was like with

eagle09 wrote:
Let me start by saying that I do not live in Davidson County and I don't know Hege or anyone else who now or formerly worked for the Sheriff's Department. With that said, I urge you to read through all of the affidavits that are linked in this story to get a better understanding of what his department was like with him as Sheriff. It will take some time, but reading through all of those are informative and a real eye opener to anyone with half a brain. The SBI report is a confidential document that we, the public, will never be allowed to read. These affidavits are clearly at least some portion of what that report likely contains and that is only the tip of the iceberg. While it was reported that crime was down when Hege was in office, these documents explain WHY it was reported as down. It is clear that he had people to manipulate the numbers to make you think that. Then those repeated stories of the high speeds in the Spider Car, using state surplus property designated for law enforcement use only for his own election campaign, the repeated theft of drug money and other property that Gerald Hege put into his own pocket and then mandated others to lie and cover it up as well as multiple other examples of corruption. Simply unbelievable for any elected official to be such a corrupt officer sworn to uphold the law. I challenge anyone who is thinking of supporting Hege, a convicted felon who pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice charges to read through these documents carefully. There is much more than meets the eye contained in those documents and there is still much about this entire situation that we don't know. How can anyone with a reasonable amount of common sense want a convicted felon as your elected Sheriff, the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in any NC county? Especially a Sheriff who cannot carry a gun and someone who dictates by intimidation, corruption, fear and harassment. It is mind boggling to me how anyone would want to return to the days when a felo

11/6/2009 8:42 AM EST on DigTriad.com
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Bornagain45 wrote:
nc_gobblerhunter? You can't look at the that he has had charges, you have to look at what they were for vs. the good that he did. The good has outweighed the bad! Thats why everybody supports him. I truly think he has learned his lesson, but I am sorry my friend. Davidson County needs him!

11/6/2009 8:39 AM EST on DigTriad.com
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nc_gobblerhunter wrote:
The man is a convicted felon! He committed his crimes while he was Sheriff in Davidson Co. The felonious acts involved his actions as Sheriff of Davidson Co. Why put him back in office in the same position he had when he committed his crimes?? Have you people have lost your minds? He will do it again if put back in a position to do so..

11/6/2009 8:00 AM EST on DigTriad.com
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pwilliams50 wrote:

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pwilliams50 wrote:
I will just share a quote from the movie Forrest Gump. " Stupid is as Stupid does"
11 6 2005 7:15 AM EST on DigTriad.com

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 rpcsafbdastc wrote:
Completely baffled.

11/8/2009 4:07 AM EST on DigTriad.com
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 RANDYGRI wrote:
Yes and he will carry a big stick , retuning Davidson County back to its original position on the map of North Carolina,as the most feared , place for drug activity , transport , manufacturing and criminals . Hes done it for years before and can do it again , when hes back next year people will not just have an option of feeling safe around here , it will come with your residency. I love the thought of living in what could be the most feared county again for criminal activity , and the knowledge of knowing if you hear of someone in Davidson county kicking a door in its TEAM 101 rounding up the bad guys. The thought of all this puts a good ole grin on most of Davidson county. And all of you living out of Davidson county you have no knowledge of the great feeling knowing it is to live under his jurisdiction you should give it a try. So all you with your witty comments keep it up but if you are a criminal take heed , dont try doing your criminal activity round these parts , after next election in this county you will not like the sting of the next new Sheriff Gerald Hege and his BIG STICK.

11/8/2009 2:18 AM EST on DigTriad.com
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 KenW51 wrote:
Say what you want! G. Hege has done more for law enforcement and their families than Grice ever thought of. The Blue Line Foundation speaks for itself. It's the bleeding heart liberals and the criminals themselves who found his methods questionable in the first place. If your against aggressive law enforcement perhaps your part of the problem, not the solution. If G. Hege brings back the no deals policy to Davidson County I'll welcome him with my vote. Do yourself a favor, cast your vote for G. Hege Davidson County Sheriff.

11/8/2009 1:45 AM EST on DigTriad.com
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 tarbomb35 wrote:
I live in Davidson County, and I consider Hege a total disgrace. It boggles the mind to think a convicted felon can be elected Sheriff.

11/8/2009 1:12 AM EST on DigTriad.com



bornagain45 wrote:
Mr. Cole, I will agree that maybe Hege did some things that he shouldn't WE ALL DO!!
But one thing for sure, he kept crime down just by the mention of his name. He took time out of his busy schedule to talk with many of the teenagers in the area that were headed for trouble and turned them around (my son was one of them).
Everybody knew and knows Hege. Now I couldn't even tell you who our Sheriff is!! Thats bad
Yes, maybe a strong ego, but he got the job done!
I and most of Davidson County residents want him back! Anyway, he has my vote!!
GO HEGE!!

11/8/2008 7:05 AM EST on DigTriad.com
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Hurricane56 wrote:
I don't how many people I heard say Hege "put us on the map." Sure did. Yankee reporters love nothing better than a hick stereotype, and this guy is the best thing (for them) since the Beverly Hillbillies went off the air.

As far as keeping the streets safe, he did put some drug dealers out of business. He did that by running a crooked vice squad that sold dope out one of the nastiest strip clubs in High Point. Before they finally got caught, they put the competition out of business by busting them, then went right back to selling. Don't believe me? Check papers from the late 90s.

As for a sheriff so crooked the law won't let him carry a gun. Maybe they'll let him keep a bullet in his pocket. Go Barney!

11/8/2008 9:44 PM EST on DigTriad.com
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dalecole43 wrote:
Amen rider maybe if we just ignore him he will go away.

11/8/2008 8:03 PM EST on DigTriad.com
Recommend (3) Report Abuse Permalink



rider81 wrote:
Some people love attention and the media is more than willing to give it to them. Is this sweeps month?

11/8/2008 8:18 PM EST on DigTriad.com
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dalecole43 wrote:
docch Are you a product of Davidson county schools?

11/8/2008 8:00 PM EST on DigTriad.com

 dalecole43 wrote:
Yeah ket him embezzle the rest of your tax dollars, then arrest you for complaining.

11/6/2008 8:16 PM EST on DigTriad.com
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 dalecole43 wrote:
Surely the people of Davidson county would not even contemplate bringing this man back to office. Do they not remember the dictatorship of his regime? This would be a huge step backward for these people. This man is an egomaniac. I would remember seeing him on tv and how he would always take credit for everything his deputies did. I remember the roadblocks and loss of liberties for our neighbors to the south. Why not go all the way and make Michael Hayes the mayor of Lexington while they are at it. It should be obvious from his last reign of terror, that he felt he was above the law. Bringing him back would only reinforce this sentiment. God help them if this becomes a reality. Dale Cole

11/6/2008 8:45 PM EST on DigTriad.com
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 loveme2 wrote:
I would like to say, a convicted felon cannot have a firearm. A convicted felon cannot vote. So now some people want one as our sheriff. This to me is crazy. There are alot of jobs a convicted felon can't get. So to put one in a job like this is not at all right, not even close to right! What is this county coming to? Why not run for president? It makes no sense!

11/6/2008 8:39 PM EST on DigTriad.com
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 peanut14 wrote:
Hege- a sheriff without a gun- whats he going to do carry a stick?

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Editorial: Wrong office for a felon

[Tagline]

Published Tuesday, March 23, 2010 11:00 PM

Most voters want their sheriff to have broad experience in law enforcement. But what if that experience includes the perspective from behind bars, serving time?

That interesting question has arisen in at least three jurisdictions where convicted felons are running for sheriff. The most high-profile of them involves Davidson County, where former celebrity lawman Gerald Hege is asking voters to return him to the office he was forced to give up when he was indicted on 15 felony counts in 2003. Hege, who ultimately pleaded guilty to two felony counts of obstruction of justice, is among four candidates in the May primary. In Washington County, Stanley James filed to run for sheriff despite a conviction for embezzlement, and in Avery County, candidate Robert Taylor's resume includes a conviction for obstruction of justice and several months in prison.

Once inmates have paid their debt to society, they can petition the courts to get most of their rights restored, including the right to vote and hold elected office. But if voters have reservations about putting a convicted felon in any elective office — and they should have reservations — they ought to be especially dubious of empowering a criminal to guide the county police force. While it might not exactly be the same as letting an inmate run the asylum, it's comes too close for comfort. (It also raises the fascinating question of whether a felon elected sheriff could legally possess firearms, given federal and state restrictions. But that's a debate for another day.)

The N.C. Sheriff's Association is among those who don't like the idea of putting a badge on a former criminal. Its members endorsed a resolution last week saying "it is regrettable that convicted felons have filed to run for election to the Office of Sheriff this year, but the sheriffs have confidence that the public will ensure that no convicted felon is elected as sheriff."

The association also has endorsed a state constitutional amendment, proposed by state Sen. Stan Bingham, that would prohibit felons from serving as sheriff. Although the legislature took no action on the amendment last year, Bingham plans to re-introduce it during this year's short session. It's obviously no coincidence that Bingham is from Davidson County, where Hege's candidacy has stirred strong passions both among his detractors and supporters. Even if the Sheriffs Association and Bingham were initially reacting to one particular candidate, there's still a larger issue — and other candidates — at stake. If a convicted felon isn't allowed to serve as a deputy, what could possibly justify allowing one to be boss of the entire department?

Sheriffs need to have experience with law and order — but it needs to come on the right side of the law.

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cfc wrote:

I'm glad someone is in charge until after the election.Period!

9/27/2010 7:57 PM EDT

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cfc wrote:

I attend church in Davidson county and know people who would be affected by Hege being voted into office.That's why I'm not wanting him to be re-elected as sheriff.There is relevancy to people who live in Rowan county.I guess some bumkins never cross the Yadkin river!

9/25/2010 7:55 PM EDT

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bikerchick wrote:

interesting enough...but do any of you realize that there are already 7 currently sitting Sheriffs in North Carolina that are convicted felons. And no....a sitting Sheriff does not have to have law enforcement experience, they do not have to be attorneys, they don't even have to know anything about North Carolina law...and oh...they don't have to carry a gun either. That is what they have sworn deputies for. All you have to be is elected by the people.

9/24/2010 11:29 PM EDT

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eastrowandad wrote:

I might suggest to Mr Hege to apply for a position at Blackwater. He can carry a gun and go after bad guysin Iraq.

9/24/2010 9:13 PM EDT

Recommend (2) Report Abuse Permalink



rob wrote:

OK, with all the people needing a job in this economy who have kept their nose clean, there is NO good reason to even consider a convicted felon as sheriff

9/24/2010 4:16 PM EDT

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blackhawk1 wrote:

Absurd that this is even an issue...you have to be exceedingly arrogant to want to be the top cop when you cannot keep yourself out of trouble. Our deeds have consequences, deal with it.

9/24/2010 11:55 AM EDT



GARREN'S CATCH OF THE DAY

In: Outdoor Photos
By: ejulian



Back to School at Salisbury Academy

In: A Day in the Life
By: saaguars

Poll

Some prominent GOP senators have advocated repeal of the 14th Amendment which grants automatic citizenship to babies born in the United States. What do you think of the repeal movement?

- The 14th Amendment should be repealed.
- Leave the Constitution as it is.
- Undecided.

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coolbeans wrote:

How can Hege run? You can't be sheriff if you can't carry a gun, can you?

7/24/2010 8:55 AM EDT

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coolbeans wrote:

How can Hege run? You can't be sheriff if you can't carry a gun, can you?

7/24/2010 8:55 AM EDT

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carolinamom wrote:

We don't live in these other counties, so who cares? Print something relative!

7/24/2010 8:47 AM EDT

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endora wrote:

This editorial is certain to bring out the whack jobs who support Hege, and maybe even those who anonymously will claim to be law enforcement officers. It's a shame, but what if Hege gets a plurality, winning his party's nomination?

Interestingly in Rowan, a small but loyal faction within their party could get a plurality in the overcrowded field of commissioners. And look at the crowded sheriff's field in Rowan. It's anyone's guess who might emerge from either of those races. But mercifully, we have no known felons running this year.

7/24/2010 7:15 AM EDT

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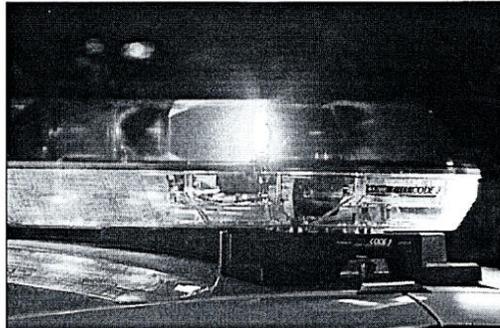
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News

Voters Poised To Judge Sheriffs' Qualifications

By AP, Associated Press (AP). 1 month, 3 weeks ago



Credit: NBC-17

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RALEIGH, N.C. -

Voters in six counties decided in May they didn't want former lawbreakers as their sheriffs. Now voters across North Carolina are poised to get a chance this November to remove them permanently from the candidate pool for the centuries-old office.

The House unanimously agreed Wednesday with the Senate's proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit convicted felons from serving as sheriff. The chamber will need to approve the language one more time Thursday before it shows up on the Nov. 2 ballot. A majority of voters would have to agree to the amendment before it's embossed in the constitution.

Six candidates for sheriff who are known felons ran unsuccessfully during the May 4 primary election, including ex-Washington County Sheriff Stanley James and former Davidson County Sheriff Gerald Hege. They all lost. But they shouldn't be qualified to run to begin with, said Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson, the bill's chief proponent.

"This shouldn't have to be, especially if you've got a CEO of a large law enforcement agency," said Bingham, who worked hard to get Hege defeated in May. "It's a little bit different being a felon and getting a job at Hardee's, or somewhere else."

The North Carolina Constitution has few restrictions for people running for elected office. There are minimum ages to serve as governor or in the Legislature. Judges, district attorneys and the attorney general must be duly "authorized to practice law in the courts of this state." Convicted felons can seek office — including sheriff — once their rights of citizenship are restored, usually when they have completed their punishment.

The North Carolina Sheriffs Association has pushed for the restriction on the office, arguing it's a matter of ethics for a county's top elected law enforcement officer to follow the law. The association's standards already bar convicted felons from serving as deputy sheriffs.

A convicted felon also is barred from owning a gun, which could put a sheriff at a disadvantage, especially in small departments where the sheriff is more than an administrator, said Rep. Dan Ingles, R-Alamance, before the bill was tentatively approved in the House by a vote of 112-0.

While the association isn't aware of felon being elected a sheriff, Edgecombe County Sheriff James Knight, said he believes the large number of felons who ran last month has helped lawmakers take up an issue the association has pushed for years.

"It's sort of hit home and reality set in once they saw the people that were running for sheriff," said Knight, the association's president.

Association lobbyist Eddie Caldwell said he knew of no opposition to the bill. But at least one of the primary candidates — David Morrow of Cleveland County — said there's no need to change the constitution because voters are already making their feelings known when they cast ballots in the sheriff's races. Morrow has run for sheriff four times and received 26 percent of the vote in May's Republican primary.

"That issue is already decided by the people when they vote," said Morrow, who served nine months in prison on what he called a drug-related felony conspiracy charge. He got out of prison 19 years ago Thursday. He said he was innocent of the charge stemming from \$300 in marijuana sold on his property.

Bingham said the voters will get to make a final decision on the issue with the amendment.

If the amendment gets on the ballot, it would mark the first constitutional referendum since 2004, when voters narrowly agreed to a change that made it easier for local governments to issue debt for some public building projects.

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Felons Seeking Sheriff Positions In North Carolina Lose At Polls

Posted on May 8, 2010 by Glenn Church



That this is a problem probably says more about North Carolina than many people want to admit.

State Sen. Stan Bingham said he will push for a bill barring convicted felons from running for sheriff.

In last week's election, four candidates running for sheriff offices were convicted felons and two others were indicted for felonies. None of the candidates won.

If they did, that raises an interesting scenario. Felons are not allowed to carry guns in North Carolina. A sheriff, of course, almost always has one. Sheriffs usually make the determination about concealed weapons permits too. This strange quirk in the law allows a felon to be a sheriff but would prevent the same person from being a deputy.

The only thing odder than allowing felons to run for sheriff is that so many felons actually do run for sheriff in North Carolina.

Maybe there was a concern that there would not be a good pool of candidates to draw from if felons were omitted.

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Why I don't want to move back to Davidson County (29 posts)

About This Topic

Posted 3 months ago

By Derek Medlin

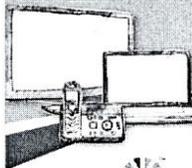
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Derek Medlin
Administrator
Posted 3 months ago
#

Sorry, this isn't NC State related or even sports news, but I have to post this link somewhere.

WRAL: Convicted felons run for positions across NC

How these guys can run for position as convicted felons is beyond me. And don't even get me started on Gerald Hege. He is a complete and total idiot.



NCStatePride
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

The way I look at it, the only difference between a convicted felon and Fowler, Oblinger, or Easley is a judge.



Alpha Wolf
Administrator
Posted 3 months ago
#

I used to pull my boat down to High Rock Lake on 85, and it was incredibly dangerous to do so with Hege's boys running their cars down the road at 100+ MPH to catch speeders. Seems like every time I did that, there were four or five sheriff vehicles that had cars on the side of the road.

I hope that Davidson County voters are smarter than to vote back in a crooked sheriff, but in this state, anything can go.



Derek Medlin
Administrator
Posted 3 months ago
#

As dumb as some folks in Davidson Co. can be (I know first hand), Hege won't get voted back in. But hell, he shouldn't even be on the ballot.



wolfpackdawg
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

Plus you have the Earnhardt's right? :)



Derek Medlin
Administrator
Posted 3 months ago
#

Please don't bring up Nascar. Please.

Haha



SeaWolf
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

I don't like Hege's eligibility, but you have to admit that his methods were well executed. From the pink jail cells to the classic black/white chain gang outfits. I laughed everytime I saw it. I think he eventually got rid of tv's as well. Personally, if your in jail you need to be knocked down a couple notches, and Hege was effective at that. Nothing more.



wolfpackdawg
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

I hate everything about Neckar...LOL



Derek Medlin
Administrator
Posted 3 months ago
#

Yeah he was real effective at stealing drug money too.



Alpha Wolf
Administrator
Posted 3 months ago
#

I always thought it would be fitting for Hege to have had to sit in his own prison and do the chain gang thing.



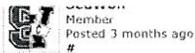
SeaWolf
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

C'mon Derek. I specifically said that I liked his methods of treating prisoners not his felonious behavior. However, he was pretty good at it. Alpha's spot on. Putting Hege on the chain gang would've been the ultimate irony.



Derek Medlin
Administrator
Posted 3 months ago
#

Haha. My bad Sea Wolf. Hege strikes a nerve with me.



Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

It's fine. I'm next door in Guilford, so I don't really have to deal with Davidson snenits. He's rather polarizing though. People I know either love him or hate him.

On another note, I remember watching an episode of Cops with Hege running a prostitution sting in a church parking lot. It was hilarious.

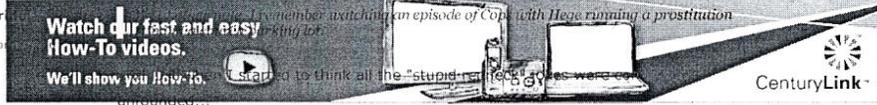
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NCStatePride
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#




Alpha Wolf
Administrator
Posted 3 months ago
#

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Davidson County hookers. Now there's a scary thought.

Not that there aren't some nice looking ladies down in Trinity or whatnot, but I just can't think of that county as having a high end brothel in it.



NCStatePride
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#



SeaWolf
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

Actually he was busting guys for soliciting. The girl he chose to "solicite" was just the Davidson county type you'd expect (see: above). And all the guys that drove up were in 1980's pick-ups.



NCStatePride
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

I was more referring to the fact that a cop would even pick the local church parking lot to set up his prostitution sting... not the fact that prostitutes were hanging out at the church.



packplantpath
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

"Hey Jim, howsabout we go down to the baptist church and git us a little lovin'."

"Naw man, I'm in the mood for a little episcopalian tonight"



tjfoose1
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

How these guys can run for position as convicted felons is beyond me.

Why? Seems to me they'll fit right in with the current culture of politics.



ncsufan13
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

^ Uhh.. I have it from a good source that when a president commits a crime it is not illegal.



NCStatePride
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

^...yep. We just got done watching people steal from our grandkids on C-SPAN.

Seriously, it's not a partisan thing or even about the president (are you starting to see what I'm talking about, ncsufan13, when I say you read someone's comments and then you **really** read what you want to read?). There is a lot of corruption in all forms of government, but when it's someone who **isn't** a millionaire, a celebrity, or a national politician with connections, its somehow more of an atrocity that someone can be convicted of a felony and still run for office.



JasonP
Member

I thought felons couldn't possess firearms. How are these guys able to skirt that?

 Posted 3 months ago
#

Whoops! Just read that they are trying to do just that, or make excuses as to how they don't have to carry a firearm to be a Sheriff. Got it!

 **ncsufan13**
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

^ I was just referencing Nixon's political philosophy as a joke to further your point **NCStatePride** TjFoose. I didn't mean anything serious by my comment.

Also JasonP, in North Carolina, a convicted felon can own a firearm. It can be case by case depending on the persons history of violence I believe but the NC Supreme Court just recently overturned a law which prohibited felons from owning guns and declared the restriction unconstitutional. **N&O link to court decision.**

Edit: looks like I was responding tjfoose's comment actually.

 **NCStatePride**
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

^I can somewhat see what you mean, but again, when someone who is a millionaire with connections all over the government, media, and private world commits a crime, like it or not, they probably have a couple more things moving in their favor than a Sheriff in Po-Dunk, NC. I don't think its applicable here.

 **bTHEredterror**
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

It's fine. I'm next door in Guilford, so I don't really have to deal with Davidson sheriffs.

I'm in High Point and there have been a few incidents where Hege's boys have chased suspects into High Point city limits, and have been cited by city council at least once for doing so during rush hour traffic. He recognizes his own authority but no one else's.

 **SeaWolf**
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

He recognizes his own authority but no one else's.

Yeah. I've always wondered what Barnes thinks of him.

 **SaccoV**
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

I teach in Davidson County and lived there up until leaving for Raleigh, and I can tell you first hand, that most of the people in Davidson County aren't the supporters for Hege on the ballot. My father attended the same high school as Hege back in the 60s and my father clearly recollects how often Hege was the daily/weekly punching bag, usually because he mouth wrote the checks. My father also offered to find everyone who beat up Hege back in high school and bring them to the debates and the polls and whatnot. Not a bad idea.

 **fullmoon1**
Member
Posted 3 months ago
#

Yeah he likes to think of himself as the guy from walking tall. He would always set up road blocks right on the guilford/davidson line in Shadow Valley. I fail to see how anyone could support him after all of his shenanigans. Wasn't he convicted for something akin to embezzeling in the name of a charity. That guy is all kinds of dirty.



Posted: June 11, 2010

Felons could be kept out of office

BY DAWSON BELL and KATHLEEN GRAY
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITERS

LANSING -- Voters may get a voice in former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's future come November.

But it won't be the kind Kilpatrick suggested in 2008, when he pleaded guilty to perjury, resigned his office and said: "Detroit, you done set me up for a comeback."

Under legislation approved unanimously Thursday in the state Senate, voters statewide would be asked to approve a constitutional amendment that would bar any officeholder convicted of a felony involving deceit and fraud from holding public office for 20 years.

Its sponsor, state Sen. Tupac Hunter, D-Detroit, said the ban isn't aimed at the former mayor, former Detroit City Councilwoman Monica Conyers or any individual, but at public corruption.

The proposed ban would apply to any state or local elected official. It mirrors an existing constitutional provision that imposes the 20-year ban on holding office for wayward state legislators.

If approved in the state House by September, the proposal would appear on the ballot Nov. 2.

"I can't imagine there will be a lot of opposition," Hunter said. "It's narrowly constructed to target only activity that involves the public trust. It seems to me it is pretty fair. It's common sense."

The amendment would extend an existing 20-year ban on election to the Legislature for those

convicted of a felony involving a breach of the public trust, broadening it to include all local and state elective office and defining the breach of the public trust to include crimes "involving dishonesty, deceit (and) fraud."

It would not, notably, extend to crimes such as drunken driving or domestic violence.

Abby Rubley, spokeswoman for House Speaker Andy Dillon, said the House will "take a look at it."

To appear on the November ballot, the amendment needs approval by two-thirds majorities in both chambers by Sept. 2.

Hunter said he planned to contact Dillon and other House lawmakers in coming days, and hopes the proposal doesn't become entangled in a dispute over its effect on Kilpatrick or any other individual.

"I believe in my heart this is the right thing to do," Hunter said. "We're all hurt by corruption in government. It's not a particular individual; it's public corruption."

The U.S. Constitution allows a convicted felon to run for Congress, but state law varies greatly. In Texas, a felon would have to get a pardon before

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being allowed to run for office, while in Connecticut, a felon could run after serving the sentence and parole and paying all penalties, according to the Annenberg Public Policy Center in Washington.

Revisions to election eligibility laws are being considered in Louisiana, where a felon would have to get a pardon before running for office, and North Carolina, where felons would be prohibited from running for county sheriff.

Contact **DAWSON BELL**: 517-372-8661 or dbell@freepress.com

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Let the voters decide

*Dene Murrell
Reedy Creek*

Published: Monday, April 19, 2010 at 5:56 p.m.

Editor: I am so tired of politicians, like Stan Bingham, and people from outside of Davidson County, Salvation's Way, trying to tell the people of this county how and who we should vote for sheriff. I believe that the people have the right and are smart enough to make up our own minds without the choice being taken away from us. We are not as dimwitted as some would believe us to be. Give us our vote, and let us make the choice.

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Sheriff candidates discuss views at forum

By *David Bodenheimer*
The Dispatch

Published: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 11:23 p.m.

Four candidates vying for the Davidson County sheriff badge faced off in a forum Tuesday night in Lexington.

The forum was put on by No Deals!, a local nonpartisan group headed up by county resident Oliver Lark.

Doors opened at 6 p.m. for an unofficial meet and greet for sheriff candidates and for county commissioner candidates incumbent Sam Watford and challenger Owen Moore. Register of Deeds David Rickard, who is seeking re-election, also attended the event, as did Republican state House candidates Richard Johnson, for District 80, and Rayne Brown and Fred McClure, for District 81.

Incumbent Davidson County Sheriff David Grice, Republican candidate Terry Price, Republican candidate Edgar Shuler and Democratic candidate Tommy Evans attended and fielded a variety of questions from forum moderator Jerry Holt.

Former Davidson County Sheriff Gerald Hege — also running for the Republican ticket in the May primary — did not attend Tuesday night. Independent sheriff candidate Don Swink attended the event but did not participate in the forum since he will not appear on the primary ballot.

A crowd of about 200 filled the Edward C. Smith Civic Center to listen to what has been a highly discussed election already.

With Hege's plans to run again for the office, controversy has surrounded the upcoming election, enough so that keynote speaker N.C. Sen. Stan Bingham, R-33, called this "one of the most critical races we have ever had in Davidson County."

Candidates weighed in on a question about national and regional publicity and whether that helps or hinders law enforcement efforts; a question which may have stemmed from the media garnered during the Hege administration.

Each candidate expressed his general concern for unnecessary publicity for the sheriff's office but did agree that conducting themselves in a professional manner would lead to positive publicity.

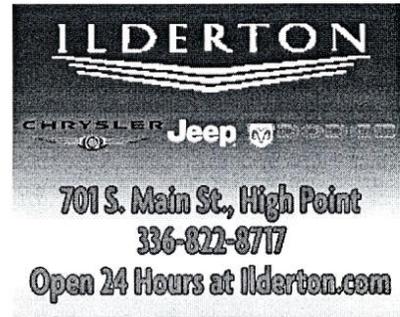
Candidates were at odds over drugs in the county and specifically how to handle the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program in the county schools.

All candidates agreed on a zero tolerance policy on drugs in schools, but Price and Shuler said once drugs have entered the schools, the problem has reached too far.

"The D.A.R.E. program is a great avenue," said Price. "If we're going to stop drugs, let's not stop them at the lunch line, let's stop them at the county line."



Donnie Roberts/The Dispatch
Four candidates for Davidson County Sheriff, (from left) Tommy Evans, incumbent Sheriff David Grice, Terry Price and Edgar Shuler, participate in the 'No Deals! Sheriff's Forum' on Tuesday night at the Edward C. Smith Civic Center.



Shuler, a former Davidson County deputy and School Resource Officer favors keeping SRO officers in schools and allowing those officers to mentor students on the dangers of drugs.

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“The SROs need to be certified in the D.A.R.E. program as well,” said Shuler. “Back when I was an SRO, I spoke to every freshman, sophomore, junior and senior class and educated them on drugs.”

Evans said he agrees to be proactive in showing kids the dangers of drugs. A former Thomasville Police Officer, Davidson County Sheriff's Deputy, N.C. Probation and Parole officer and a Division of Motor Vehicle inspector, Evans recalled an incident in his career in which he showed a car that had been seized from a drug dealer to kids.

“You have to educate at a young age,” said Evans. “I remember when I worked as a probation and parole officer, my responsibility was to spend time with these kids. One of the first vehicles seized in this county was actually put on display at a school and kids got a chance to look at it. It showed them (kids) what would happen if they got into drugs. They would lose their assets, they would lose their money, they would lose their freedom.”

Grice said he has been very proactive with drugs in schools and noted that the D.A.R.E. program currently serves 1,500 kids in 17 county schools each year.

“The D.A.R.E. program is a successful program,” said Grice. “It helps kids make wise choices. If you will look in the newspapers on a daily basis, you will see that our officers at the schools, our resource officers are arresting people on this daily, for bringing drugs to school. We've recently started publicizing this. We discussed it and said we need to start publicizing this and maybe these kids will get tired of seeing their names in the paper and quit bringing drugs to school.”

Such publication was criticized by Shuler.

“Here lately, you have only seen it, numerous press releases, weapons, drugs in the school, at the end of this election time,” Shuler said.

The primary election will be held May 4.

David Bodenheimer can be reached at 249-3981, ext. 227, or david.bodenheimer@the-dispatch.com.

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Felons bill is off-target

Chuck Mann
Greensboro

Published: Friday, March 19, 2010 at 8:06 p.m.

Editor: I hope that state Senator Stan Bingham's effort to amend the state Constitution isn't successful. I think that convicted felons who have "done their time" and "paid their debt to society" should get a second chance. Convicted felons should have the right to vote and the right to run for any elective office.

I am not a supporter of former Sheriff Gerald Hege. I don't think that he should be re-elected, but I think he should have the right to run for any elective office, and the people of Davidson County should have the right to vote for, or against, him. All free adults should have the same legal, and political, rights.

On the other hand I would support a constitutional amendment that eliminated the state Senate. There is no reason for our state Legislature to have two houses. Eliminating the Senate would save our state billions of dollars over the years. A unicameral Legislature would work just fine.

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N.C. Sheriffs' Association backs bill preventing felons from holding office

By David Bodenheimer
The Dispatch

Published: Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 10:08 p.m.

The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association voted Wednesday to back Senate Bill 351, a proposed state constitution amendment put to voters that would keep convicted felons from serving as sheriff.

The bill, introduced last spring by state Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson, never died and has been referred to the Ways & Means committee.

"The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association does not want something as crucial and fundamental to professional law enforcement as the public trust to be placed in the hands of a known felon, having been found to be such in a court of law," said the association in a news release.

No current law is in place keeping a convicted felon from holding the office. If the bill is passed by the General Assembly in the upcoming session it would still require a state constitutional amendment — proposed in the bill as a referendum to be placed on the November general election ballot — to go into effect.

Davidson is one of six counties that has a convicted felon on the May primary ballot for sheriff. The other counties are Cleveland, Avery, McDowell, Washington and Wilkes.

Former Davidson County sheriff and convicted felon Gerald Hege is seeking re-election to the office he left in 2004 after he plead guilty to two counts of felony obstruction of justice.

Hege questioned the timing from the Senate to address a bill that wants to keep candidates in his situation out of office.

"This is the same they did last year, the sheriffs' association," said Hege. "This is really nothing new, getting closer to the primary I guess they're trying to get some press."

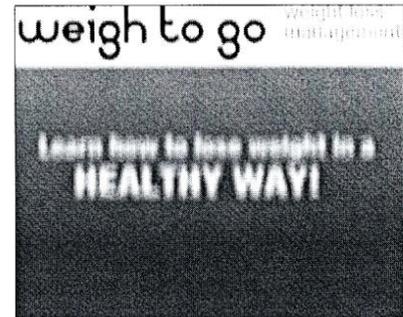
Hege also pointed out Bingham's public endorsement for incumbent Davidson County Sheriff David Grice.

"The sheriff is his neighbor and friend and they are seeing all these 4,000 yard signs out here and they're in a panic," said Hege.

Grice, on the other hand, said the reason the association is reviewing the bill is because of general concern by the public.

"I think it's a good idea," said Grice. "And I think the sheriffs' association made a wise move in letting the public and the taxpayers of North Carolina know that they take a stand and oppose this. I feel if you are in the position of sheriff, you should lead by example."

Bingham said he is more hopeful his bill can be passed with the added support from



the association.

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"I'm happy about this," said Bingham. "Now with their support, that will make a great difference. This will help a lot, it will make it easier."

Hege added he feels as though he is being targeted specifically by the bill.

"People make mistakes," said Hege. "That's why the constitution is set up the way it is. You make a mistake, you pay your debt back to society and then you get on with your life. That's why the primary process is the way it is; people can eliminate any unwanted candidate."

Hege originally faced 15 felony charges before taking a plea bargain that resulted in two felony obstruction of justice charges. He served three years of intensive probation.

Given his record, Hege could not return to the sheriff's department as a deputy officer. Bingham said it's too much of a risk to allow felons to hold the highest law enforcement position in the county.

Grice also addressed that law and said, "I think people expect the chief law enforcement officer, the sheriff, to conform to the same basic standards an entry-level deputy must meet."

Grice said an entry-level deputy cannot be hired with a conviction of a class B misdemeanor, much less a felony.

David Bodenheimer can be reached at 249-3981, ext. 227, or david.bodenheimer@the-dispatch.com.

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GOP supports no felons as sheriff bill

Local candidates speak on issues

BY HEATHER J. SMITH
The Dispatch

Published: Thursday, March 25, 2010 at 5:00 a.m.

Thursday night at the Davidson County Courthouse, the county Republican Convention was asked if felons should be able to run for the office of sheriff.

The party's answer was emphatic: No.

Party chairman Lance Barrett welcomed delegates, candidates and guests. After concluding most of the meeting's business, Barrett asked the crowd to turn its attention to a resolution supporting a bill introduced by state Sen. Stan Bingham, R-33, that would bar felons from running for the office of sheriff. The resolution was passed with only a small group voting against.



Heather J. Smith/The Dispatch
Delegates from precincts countywide and candidates for May primary elections assembled in a courtroom at the Davidson County Courthouse for the Davidson County Republican Convention on Thursday night.

Barrett then invited Republican candidates from all local contested races to speak briefly. The recent passage of health care reform and higher taxes were the focus of comments by national and state candidates, but economic woes were discussed by all local candidates.

Incumbent Davidson County Commissioner Sam Watford touched on projects he supported in the past, and promised the same dedication to the job in the future if re-elected.

"Local government cannot be all things to all people," Watford said. "Ours is a complex world and there are no simple fixes or simplistic solutions. But when the polls close, I will continue serving the Lord, my family and, if enough people have confidence in me, Davidson County."

Fellow incumbent Commissioner Don Truell pointed to schools built or remodeled, new sewer lines constructed, an addition to the Denton Library, fundamentals constructed for a county public transportation system, economic development incentives given to prospective businesses and other accomplishments made over the last eight years.

"But we did all these things, and what I'm more proud of, is that with the seven people on the board, we did all this without an increase in the tax rate," Truell said.

County commissioner candidate Eric Osborne's message was brief.

"I came up here to talk about taxes, tax breaks, relinquishing pay, but I'm not going to do it because, the way I look at it, the party's already gone to who they want us to vote for, so I won't waste anyone else's time," he said.

Owen Moore, also running for commissioner, told the crowd he was proud to be a



third generation conservative Republican. If elected, he promised to be a listener and a learner as the county found new ways to revive prosperity.

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"One of the main things I will be interested in is, like they say in real estate: 'location, location, location.' Only on this, it will be 'jobs, jobs, jobs,'" Moore said. "The people whose jobs went away, we need to get them employed. That will help everything."

Billy Joe Kepley first came to the board of commissioners in 1990. Unlike most candidates' top issues of law enforcement, school performance and economic development, Kepley explained there are professional staff looking after the daily duties of each. The commissioner's job was to develop new, innovative ways to guide that staff and move the county in the future.

"One of the things I've pushed for is small businesses," Kepley said. "They have been somewhat ignored, so I've pushed for something we can do for small businesses. When large industries move overseas, they take jobs with them. That doesn't happen with smaller companies."

Eddie Gallimore, running for a seat on the county board, has been vice chairman of the Davidson County Republican Party for the past year. He supports the right to bear arms, is a graduate of Central Davidson High School and owns a construction and grading business.

"Jobs are something that we need," Gallimore said. "I know. I have spent a lot of time with friends that are not working. We need to do whatever it takes within reason. We don't want to go and spend a lot of money like some of the counties to have a building sitting empty because somebody is coming in and doing great things for us and then they up and pull out on us."

Kenneth "Stump" Cavender told the assembly he spent 30 years in industrial management and currently owns a small business. He said frankly he does not feel represented by the current county board, and decided to run to "move the commissioners a little more to the right."

"I feel that if I'm elected commissioner I'm going to work very hard for a lot of the small companies in Davidson County because that's where the growth is going to be in Davidson County," Cavender said.

Commissioner candidate Dwight Cornelison spoke about experience gained during his eight years on the Thomasville City Council. Like the other candidates, he cited jobs and the economy as the top issues of this election, calling for a freeze in all construction and capital spending for the next two years. Cornelison also mentioned intent to press the General Assembly to put a definition of marriage before North Carolina voters.

"We can talk jobs, we can talk taxes, we can talk everything we want, but without a strong family unit, we will not have a strong community and we will not have a strong economy," Cornelison said.

Larry Allen, former commissioner running to get his seat back on the county board, criticized the current board for accepting ownership of the Wil-Cox Bridge. He talked about his conservative voting record while on the board and promised, if elected, he would spur the county to work harder to recruit business.

"We have to let the world know that Davidson County is open for business," Allen said.

Heather J. Smith can be reached at 249-3981, ext. 228 or at heatherj.smith@the-dispatch.com.

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Supporters of Hege should accept defeat

Published: Friday, May 7, 2010 at 3:40 p.m.

The voters have spoken. The Davidson County Board of Elections has spoken. State law has spoken. Gerald Hege, who resigned as sheriff six years ago after pleading guilty to two felonies, and his supporters need to accept all this and move on and give up any dreams of him returning to the office of sheriff.

Hege's defeat in the Republican primary Tuesday night should have been the end of his political ambitions for this year. But the board of elections still held a previously scheduled hearing Friday to deal with petitions questioning Hege's candidacy. The board made the only decision it could - to dismiss the petitions, since Hege lost. Unfortunately, supporters and opponents of Hege then scuffled in the parking lot after the hearing.

On a related note, State Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson, should continue to push his legislation to ban felons from running for sheriff to prevent such a scenario from occurring in the future. Four felons ran for office this year, but voters wisely rejected all. The fact a felon can run for a county's top law enforcement position and be in position to enforce laws he may have broken simply boggles the mind.

Anyone who lives in Lexington or uses city utilities won't be happy to see fee increases in the coming fiscal year. The increases will come out to about \$100 for a city household, slightly less for utilities customers who live in the county and don't use city garbage collection. The increases come as a result of fewer manufacturers to pay taxes, which leaves council members looking elsewhere for ways to make up the lost revenue. Increases are especially difficult during challenging economic times. City leaders vow they're cutting expenses to keep the increases as low as possible, and this must remain a priority, which could produce some tough decisions about services.

Students in the Lexington City Schools probably aren't too happy this week, either. The board of education approved longer school days for the coming year. Fifteen minutes is not very long, but the key will be for teachers and students to use that time wisely to increase learning. High school students will have an additional period for enrichment-type courses while middle school students will focus on literacy.

One Lexington teacher who has demonstrated her ability to engage students is Brooke Zehmer, a second-grade teacher at Southwest Elementary School who was named the system's teacher of the year. One of the most impressive aspects of Zehmer's selection was the fact her peers voted for her. This shows her dedication to teaching is noticed by those who know best what traits a good teacher possesses.

Residents throughout Davidson County can easily help a worthy cause Saturday. Postal carriers will again conduct their "Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive." The carriers will pick up nonperishable food items left at their mailboxes. The food goes to Crisis Ministry, which uses it to stock its food banks. To show what an impact the drive has, last year the carriers collected 181,000 pounds of food.

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