



Chelan County Sheriff's Office

Brian Burnett, Sheriff

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Citizens of and Visitors to Chelan County:

Over the past several weeks I have received numerous requests asking my opinion on the possibility of newly proposed gun laws that might be in conflict with our citizen's constitutional rights, specifically the 2nd Amendment. While this is obviously an emotionally driven topic and most assuredly there will always be disagreement, I feel it necessary to let the citizens of Chelan County know where I stand.

On December 28, 2010 I swore an Oath of Office that stated, **"I Brian Burnett do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution and the Laws of the United States of America and the Constitution and the Laws of the State of Washington and will to the best of my judgment, skill and ability, truly, faithfully, diligently and impartially perform the duties of the office of Sheriff in and for Chelan County, Washington, according to law, to the best of my ability."** I take that oath very seriously as I commit my dedication to uphold that oath to and for the Citizens of Chelan County. Both the Constitution of the United States (2nd Amendment) and the Washington State Constitution (Article 1, Section 24) include the right of the people to keep and bear arms.

In light of the recent tragic events where many innocent lives have been taken, it has caused most Americans to look deep and wonder why and what we can do to best stop and detour these types of situations. I do not support or believe that a total ban or blanket policy for specific weapons is the answer to our current situation. I do however support strict and thorough background checks for gun purchases and concealed weapons permit holders, making sure that we maintain a diligent effort to keep weapons away from those who legally should not possess or pose a valid threat to society whether it is from previous violent actions and / or convictions or serious mental health issues.

Integrity ★ Teamwork ★ Excellence

John Wisemore
Undersheriff



Mike Harris
Chief of Patrol



Jason Mathews
Chief of Special Operations



Valerie Karnes
Chief Civil Deputy



Jan Brincat
Executive Assistant

I believe our focus should be on the perpetrator of the violence and what we need to do collectively as a society to minimize and / or eliminate this type of violent behavior. I am currently working with our local schools to make sure our local Law Enforcement and School Staff are best prepared to prevent and respond to these types of evil acts. This is something that one individual or group cannot and will not be able to accomplish by themselves, therefore we all need to do our part and work cooperatively together to have the best results. I have been in contact and will remain in contact with our State Representatives, State Senators and US Representative (Congressman) who represents Chelan County in an effort to express my thoughts and concerns on this important topic. I would encourage you, the citizens of Chelan County to do the same, allowing our elected officials to know what is important to you, the citizens and voters of Chelan County, remembering to keep a positive message in an attempt to be part of the solution, rather than the problem.

Respectfully,



Sheriff Brian Burnett

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