CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS

CLARK COUNTY DESERVES BETTER: WE NEED MORE STAFFING NOW

Imagine calling 911 during an emergency—only to be told there's no one available to help right away. That's not a hypothetical situation. On some nights, only ***four*** deputies are responsible for protecting 245,000 people across 512 square miles in Clark County. That's four deputies to handle emergencies, respond to crimes in progress, assist those in crisis, and keep our neighborhoods *safe*.

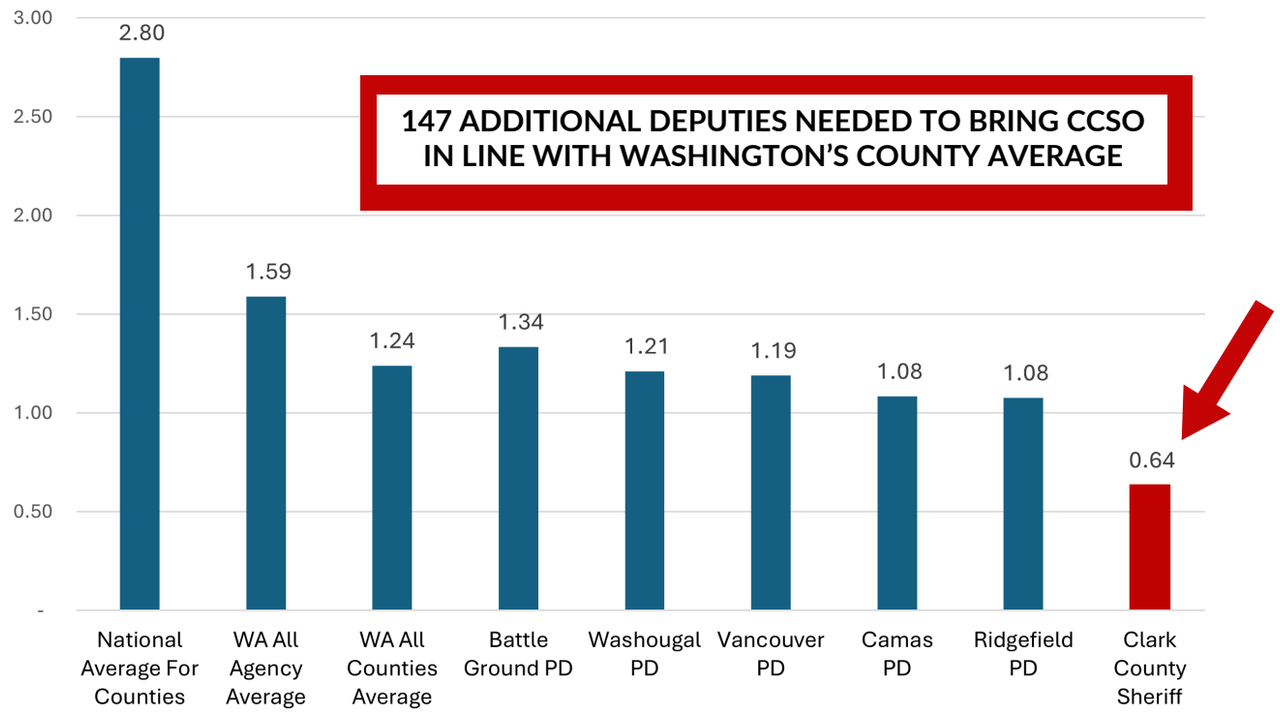
Staffing levels have forced us to remove detectives from important investigations to cover patrol shifts. Fraud, property theft, and even some school-related incidents go unaddressed because we don't have the deputies to respond. Deputy exhaustion from mandatory overtime causes severe burnout. Lack of law-enforcement on the streets is a direct threat to public safety and has created a severe officer safety issue. This situation is not sustainable for the agency and for the public we serve. We are facing a public safety crisis that must be immediately fixed.

IF THERE IS NOT AN INCREASE IN DEPUTIES TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY, THE CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WILL BE FORCED TO DRAMATICALLY CUT SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITY.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFFING COMPARISON (2024)

Battle Ground PD – 1.34 officers per 1,000 residents
Washougal PD – 1.21 officers per 1,000 residents
Vancouver PD – 1.19 officers per 1,000 residents
Camas PD – 1.08 officers per 1,000 residents
Ridgefield PD – 1.08 officers per 1,000 residents
Clark County Sheriff's Office – 0.64 deputies per 1,000 residents (near the bottom in the state)

NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL AGENCY COMPARISONS



01. IMPACT ON CALLS FOR SERVICE

Clark County Sheriff's Office patrol shifts regularly fall below minimum staffing levels. Due to our staffing crisis, CCSO has already been forced to implement the following service reductions:

NO DEPUTY RESPONSE TO:

- Property damage and behavioral issues.
- Lost/found property that does not represent a safety concern.
- Audible alarms where there is no indication that a burglary has occurred.
- Traffic and parking complaints with no criminal nexus.
- Fraud (under $5,000) and Theft (under $750).
- Theft from a vehicle where there is no suspect information.
- Minimal damage and/or graffiti of property.
- Non-life-threatening harassing phone calls that are not DV and/or stalking.

02. WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

CCSO requires 147 new deputy positions to align with the Washington State County average. CCSO also requires 32 additional non-sworn staff in our Support Branch to align with Washington's average for civilian employees who support operations.

03. HOW YOU CAN HELP

This staffing crisis has been in the making for over twenty years. CCSO has been in discussions with the county council and will soon request a funding package to fix this shortage of deputies.

If public safety is your priority, we need your help to advocate for more deputies to protect our community and ensure vital services are not cut. We are in this together and we welcome your partnership. Here's what you can do to help:

- Contact your Clark County Councilors and let them know you support funding more positions at the Clark County Sheriff's Office.
- Attend Clark County Council meetings and let your voice be heard.
- Share this information with your family and friends.
- Share this information with community groups, neighborhood associations and on social media.

Council Contact Information:

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CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

SCAN ME