



**Candidate Endorsement/Approval Questionnaire
(revised 2-17-20)**

Please complete this questionnaire carefully and thoroughly. You may attach your typed responses to the questions as necessary. It is important that you return the completed questionnaire to the 23rd Legislative District Democrats Chairperson as soon as possible so that an interview can be scheduled at an Executive Board meeting. We prefer that you submit the questionnaire via email to chair@kitsap23rd.com.

PART A: *(Part A of your completed questionnaire will be made available to members prior to the vote to endorse or approve and to other interested individuals via our regular communications and our website only for candidates/issues endorsed or approved by the membership.)*

1. Full name and home address.

John Gese
1891 Connery Lane e.
Port Orchard, WA 98366

2. Office/Position sought.
Kitsap County Sheriff

3. Are you seeking endorsement or approval?

Endorsement

- **Are you seeking any other endorsements?** Yes No

Seeking the endorsement of the incumbent elected democratic representatives and senators and other county elected democrats. Hope to also reach out to labor organizations and other community groups that might offer endorsements.

- **Have you been endorsed by any other organization?** Yes No

Kitsap County Democratic Central Committee
Currently seeking the endorsements of the 26th, 35th, Young Democrats.

4. Official name and address of campaign.

Vote Gese
POB 108
Port Orchard, WA 93866

5. Campaign contact information (email, phone numbers, etc.)

info@VoteGese.com
VoteGese.com
360-602-5344

6. Election date(s) - Primary and/or General Election(s).

Primary, August 2 (if necessary); General, November 8.

7. Is your race partisan or non-partisan?

Partisan

8. Political party affiliation, history of participation and membership.

Democratic. No formal party participation.

9. Current and previous offices held.

Appointed Kitsap County Sheriff's Office

10. Current employer other than elected office, if any.

Kitsap County Sheriff's Office

11. Past work experience.

31 years with the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office

12. Military experience.

None

13. Educational background

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, Western Washington University
Northwestern University, Center for Public Safety, Certificate of Police School of Staff and Command.

14. Affiliations with clubs or other organizations.

Port Orchard Rotary

Leadership Kitsap Class of 2004, former board member and board President.

15. What major issues will be addressed in the office you are seeking? Briefly explain your positions on these issues.

Leading through change in within the police and criminal justice reform efforts, adapting to new laws, best practices, continuing to build strong relationships with our various communities and working collaboratively with community partners to address issues. Areas of crime trends, neighborhood problems and social disorder issues are a focus. Social issues such as unsheltered homeless encampments, mental health and addiction issues where they intersect with law enforcement. Also, addressing a staffing and hiring crisis with intensive recruiting, hiring and training efforts. Focus on being a progressive, accountable and transparent agency that is responsive to the community needs.

16. What experience do you have that is directly related to the office you are seeking?

31 years with the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, twenty years of its management to include executive level management. Seven years as the second in command and now seven months as appointed Sheriff. Additionally, community service work with Rotary, Leadership Kitsap and the American Red Cross also provided experience and demonstrates commitment to our community. I have lived in our community for over thirty years and raised a family in this area. I am deeply connected to Kitsap County.

17. Do you have any management training or experience? If so, please elaborate.

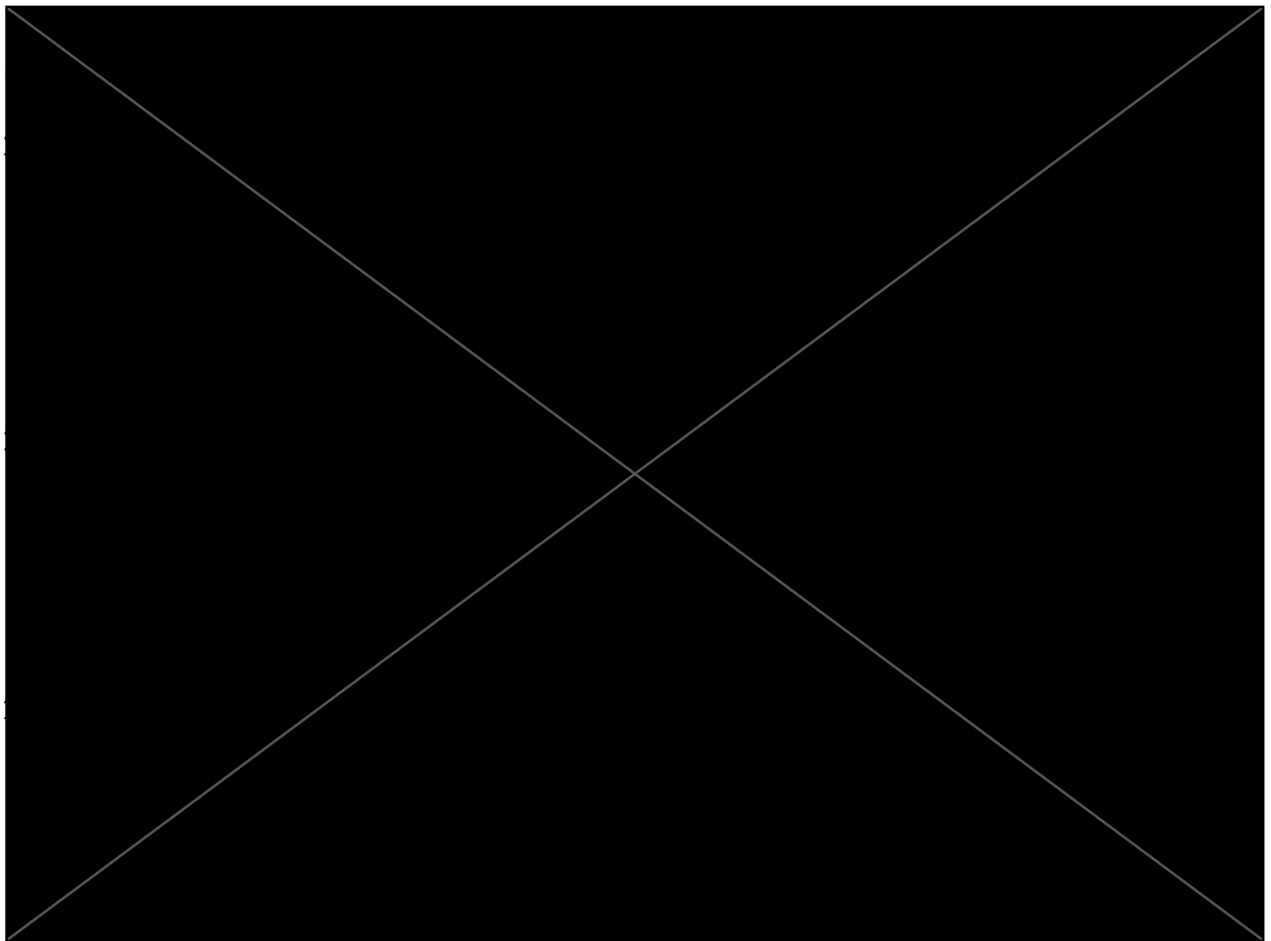
Hired in 1991 and first promoted in 1999, I have twenty years of supervisory and management experience. I have been continuously coached and mentored through my careers and have attended numerous trainings. I have led this agency as the number three, two and appointed Sheriff positions. I was second in command for seven years. I have extensive business management experience to include administering and developing budgets, distributing resources, personnel, labor union negotiation and have implemented agency re-organization strengthening the financial, communication and training management. I also have extensive management history in the delivery of public safety services and have led through times of growth, recession, and the resulting shrinking of resources, covid and staffing crisis. I have had either direct management or management oversight of the corrections facilities and its various programs and challenges.

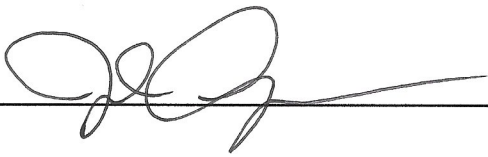
18. Why are you seeking this office? What do you hope to achieve and what qualifications do you have toward that goal?

This is a time of profound change, challenges and opportunities for my agency and our community. A historic staffing turnover has meant a tremendous amount of new people coming into our agency and profession. I have a strong commitment and passion to lead during these difficult times. I have the experience that provides great insight into running this business and addressing our community needs. I have a desire to assure our Sheriff's Office is a top-rated organization that meets the community needs and expectations. I enjoy working with our community and community partners to solve problems.

19. Is there anything else you would like to add?

Thank you for the consideration of the endorsement and I look forward to working with you this next four years.



Signature.  Date. 5-7-22

Name and Title (Printed). JOHN GESE SHERIFF