

NAME: Keith Van Nus
PARTY: Republican
SEEKING: Sheriff of Gwinnett County



Why are you seeking your office?

I have felt for some time that a Positive Change was needed in the Leadership and Service to the Citizens. This was confirmed many times talking with the Deputies, Staff and Citizen Groups. These folks asked me to please run and begin to rebuild Respect for All and Rebuild relationships with the community and staff.

If the Sheriff had made an effort to do these things the Deputies and Staff would have been behind him for another term, but he has entrusted leadership to others and ignored his staff. Staff rarely sees him.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

Reconnect with the Deputies and Staff. Be there, talk with them, ask how they are treated. Show them they are important and matter. Show up for the Annual Awards Ceremony.

Appoint new leadership that believes as I do that we are there for support and to build a team that works together. This benefits staff as well as the inmates and public we serve.

Rebuild bridges with community groups. Identify problems like trust and respect. Take the things that we agree on and build from there.

Show up for work and hold each other accountable for our actions/decisions.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I have worked and experienced most of the jobs/positions within the Department. I have firsthand experience with the needs to accomplish the job and reduce the stress. I talk with the Deputies and Staff. I have the vast majority of them asking me to please run because I truly care about them. They never see the Sheriff much less get to talk with him. Their opinions matter little.

I am not running "To Be the Longest Serving Sheriff". It's about Service.

I also have experience in the physical management of the facility, buildings, equipment and Preventative Maintenance.

What are the key issues in your race?

Competent and Trustworthy Leadership. Why would you appoint leaders that have been let go from other Departments and even cost them millions in lawsuits? Why would you rehire leaders that have previously left for poor conduct and give them more responsibility when they return?

Supporting the Deputies and Staff to increase morale, retention and reduce internal stress. Increase training opportunities. Rebuild a Professional Team.

Work with local leaders and the District Attorney to solve the problems at hand. Rebuild trust.

Pick one issue. Expand on how you will address it.

Employee morale and feelings that they don't matter. Meet with the Deputies and Staff. One on one and in groups. Get their opinions and possible solutions. Be seen, visit the units where they work, attend roll calls and training. Attend the Annual Awards Ceremony. Attend your employee's funerals and celebrations of life. SHOW that you care and that you want them to succeed in one of the most thankless careers around. Reinforce the importance of working together at all levels. Everyone has a part in making the Sheriff's Office work.

Give a 100 word summary of your background.

Married to Eileen 43 years, 7 children, 9 grandchildren. 21 years in Gwinnett Law Enforcement. 3 years FBI Public Corruption Investigator. 8 years USAF. Currently Director of Operations and Security Hebron Church. Home builder/remodeler. Broward College. GA POST Management, Supervision, Advanced Certifications. Instructor.

As an experienced investigator I rely on facts and I am not swayed by "powerful people".

I look for opportunities to build strong relationships and trust even with those that I may not totally agree with. People usually agree on more than they disagree. We have to start a dialog.