

FLORENCE COUNTY SHERIFF

EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

YES

T.J. Joye, Republican

NO RESPONSE

Darrin Yarborough, Democratic

"We would continue to address all of the crimes of domestic violence that are being reported and take them just as seriously as before we did before the pandemic. In doing this, we would take necessary steps to protect our officers as well as those present at the locations where officer response is needed. I also think it's important to offer different ways to report domestic violence so that those being victimized can feel safer. Many times, people are afraid to pick up the phone and dial 911 because their abuser is always around and would hear the call and hurt them more. I'd like to create a text message reporting system and an online reporting system that victims could use to report domestic violence in a more concealed and safe way. The online reporting system could also include a way to upload pictures and text messages documenting a cycle of abuse, which would later assist us in prosecuting suspects more effectively. These new reporting mechanisms would take some of the weight off of our dispatchers and allow victims to report being abused without risking being caught by their abuser and punished/injured after reporting." – T.J. Joye

SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

YES

T.J. Joye, Republican

NO RESPONSE

Darrin Yarborough, Democratic

"I plan to properly record and report all incidents of CDV to different agencies that we partner with as well as our Solicitor's Office of course. This coordinated effort would include partnering with local organizations such as the Pee Dee Coalition, Sleep in Heavenly Peace and House of Hope to help people move out of abusive situations and develop a game plan to separate from their abuser and become financially independent as well as seek treatment for the damage the abuse has caused. I think that if victims know FCSO will help them beyond just documenting and helping prosecute their abuser, they are much more likely to come forward and report abuse as well. As of last year, South Carolina was the nation's 6th worst state when it came to violence against women, in particular homicides that came from domestic abuse situations. This is more than a criminal justice issue and I want to make a coordinated effort to decrease all types of domestic violence in our community to make sure nobody in Florence County lives in fear of an abuser. An example of a statewide effort might also be the creation of a database including people with criminal domestic violence convictions. These convictions are already public record on each county's public index, but I would support a statewide means where prior to getting involved with someone, a man or woman could easily look up their name and see if they had a past track record of abusing partners or past partners." – T.J. Joye

FLORENCE COUNTY SHERIFF

INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

YES

T.J. Joye, Republican

NO RESPONSE

Darrin Yarborough, Democratic

"If we take a strong stance against domestic and sexual violence in our county, we give ourselves a stronger voice to lobby the legislature to create more programs that help prevent CDV and sexual abuse. We do this by responding to CDV and sexual violence calls in a timely manner by increasing patrol deputies, partnering with agencies that assist in prosecuting sexual abuse cases like the Durant Center and Pee Dee Coalition, and using the most effective investigators to rigorously work these cases and leave no stone unturned when it comes to building a strong and detailed case against each one of them so that each one will be prosecuted effectively. Also, we have to take the violation of protective orders and restraining orders seriously. I have heard before that "a restraining order is just a piece of paper." If I am sheriff, that will not be the case and those that violate orders that have already been issued telling them to stay away from someone they've abused will be found and prosecuted to the fullest extent the law allows." – T.J. Joye

SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

YES

T.J. Joye, Republican

NO RESPONSE

Darrin Yarborough, Democratic

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

YES

T.J. Joye, Republican

NO RESPONSE

Darrin Yarborough, Democratic

"We can provide our state and federal elected officials with accurate numbers showing the severity of CDV and the continued need for implementing fund to help address this issue. When we receive that funding, we will be sure that it is allocated to address victim services. This is another reason that I have vowed not to take a pay raise-I want any additional funding to help victims that are suffering, not line my pockets." – T.J. Joye