



Washington Association of  
**SHERIFFS &  
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Chief Craig Meidl  
City of Spokane

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**President-Elect**  
Sheriff Rick Scott  
Grays Harbor County

Statement attribution:  
Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director

**Vice President**  
Chief Steve Crown  
City of Wenatchee

**WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS STATEMENT ON  
LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE BLAKE DECISION**

**Past President**  
Sheriff John Snaza  
Thurston County

(Lacey, WA) – The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) appreciates legislative efforts to correct the impacts of the recent state supreme court decision that Washington’s statute criminalizing simple possession of a controlled substance is unconstitutional.

**Treasurer**  
Chief Brett Vance  
City of Montesano

**Executive Board**  
Chief John Batiste  
Washington State Patrol

We ask that the legislature address the problems the court decision created and direct more support for substances abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery. The legalization of controlled substances without substantial commitments to build and fund the infrastructure to address the root causes of addiction represent the worst of both worlds.

Chief Gary Jenkins  
City of Pullman

Sheriff Mitzi Johanknecht  
King County

When it comes to substance use disorder, the primary tool that the legislature has provided to date is a criminal justice tool, and the Supreme Court took that tool away. It is now up to the legislature to decide what, if any, efforts will be made to combat substance use disorder, including simple possession, use, and the victimization and criminal behavior that is commonly associated with controlled substances.

Sheriff Tom Jones  
Grant County

Chief Darrell Lowe  
City of Redmond

Chief Rafael Padilla  
City of Kent

Sheriff James Raymond  
Franklin County

Director David Trujillo  
Washington State  
Gambling Commission

In our opinion, the very least the legislature should do is amend RCW 69.50.4013 (1) to insert the word “knowingly” to address the constitutionality of the simple possession statute. The legislature, however, should not just take the easiest option available. While we are deeply troubled by the Court’s ruling, the legislature now has an opportunity to make meaningful improvements to help those who need help. We ask that the legislature take this opportunity to fix the constitutionality of that statute and also make prevention, intervention, and treatment services as available in the community as drugs are. The legislature should take the steps necessary to improve the lives of those who are suffering – to help those who need help.

Don Voiret, SAC  
FBI—Seattle

Steven D. Strachan  
Executive Director

WASPC stands ready to work with legislators to review, discuss and improve any legislation that seeks to achieve these goals.

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*About WASPC:*

WASPC was founded in 1963 and consists of executive and top management personnel from law enforcement agencies statewide. With more than 900 members it includes the 39 elected county sheriffs, and 240 police chiefs, as well as the

***Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington***

Washington State Patrol, the Washington Department of Corrections, and representatives of Tribal and federal agencies.

WASPC is the only association of its kind in the nation combining representatives from local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement into a single body, working toward a common goal. WASPC's function is to provide specific materials and services to all law enforcement agencies in the state, members, and non-members alike.