



# SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS



Since 1874

1601 South IH-35, Austin, TX 78741 (512) 445-5888

Larry R. Smith, President  
Sheriff, Smith County  
Tyler, Texas



Skylor Hearn  
Executive Director

March 20, 2024

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas  
1100 San Jacinto  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Governor Abbott,

As Sheriffs, we must faithfully preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and Texas. We respectfully request that our Texas border be immediately secured by any lawful means.

We recognize the indisputable and unprecedented atrocities occurring at our southern border. Unvetted migrants crossing into Texas from more than 120 countries include cartel members, gang members, known or suspected terrorists, and human traffickers - all of whom pose a clear and present danger to America and her citizens. The influx of illegal drugs has irreversibly damaged our communities. The mass deaths by illicit drugs originating from Mexico alone (more than 100,000 deaths per year) could be considered a weapon of mass destruction. Equally alarming is how our unsecured border is directly responsible for numerous criminal victimizations of citizens and non-citizens as well as numerous human rights violations, which include but are not limited to murder, child and adult sexual assault and abuse, human trafficking, kidnapping, indentured servitude, forced child labor, identity theft, and exploitation of workers.

The unsecured border is a deliberate, destructive, and inhumane violation of Texas and federal law. It overwhelms the resources of Texas and the United States and encourages continued invasion by unknown criminals and unvetted persons.

We request that our dangerous, chaotic "Texas Border Emergency" be officially declared a United States Constitutional Crisis and Crimes Against Humanity. We further request that the United States Government without delay assist in securing the border.

Border security and immigration can and should be mutually exclusive. An antiquated immigration process in need of improvement does not infer or require our government to have an ineffective, unsecured, and dangerous southern border. The southern border is a national security issue, which jeopardizes United States sovereignty and the safety of American citizens.

Ricky Jones, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Sheriff, Franklin County  
Mount Vernon, Texas

Greg Capers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Sheriff, San Jacinto County  
Coldspring, Texas

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Amarillo, Texas

Mike Gleason, Director  
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Texas Sheriffs agree that the unsecured Texas border is in direct opposition to our primary responsibility to defend and maintain the United States and Texas sovereignty, to provide security, and to promote the general welfare of Texans and United States citizens.

As Texas Sheriffs, we are compelled to this position to adhere to our constitutional oath. We stand in unity with our Governor to protect our citizens.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Bill E. Waybourn  
Tarrant County

Sheriff Larry R. Smith  
Smith County

Sheriff Thomas L. Selman Jr,  
Angelina County

Sheriff Melissa Anderson  
Armstrong County

Sheriff Daniel R. Butts  
Bandera County

Sheriff Darcy L. White  
Baylor County

Sheriff Jeffrey K. Neal  
Bowie County

Sheriff Urbino "Benny" Martinez  
Brooks County

Sheriff Vance W. Hill  
Brown County

Sheriff Tam Terry  
Carson County

Sheriff Larry Rowe  
Cass County

Sheriff Salvador S. Rivera Jr,  
Castro County

Sheriff Brent Dickson  
Cherokee County

Sheriff Matthew W. Bradley  
Childress County

Sheriff Sidney "Kirk" Horton  
Clay County

Sheriff Wayne McCutchen  
Coke County

Sheriff James O. Skinner  
Collin County

Sheriff R.H. "Curly" Wied  
Colorado County

Sheriff Mark W. Reynolds  
Comal County

Sheriff Ray Sappington  
Cooke County

Sheriff J. Dale Butler Jr,  
Deaf Smith County

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Eastland County

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Ector County

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Ellis County

Sheriff Jeremy D. Shipley  
Freestone County

Sheriff Michael Jay Morse  
Frio County

Sheriff Roy Boyd Jr,  
Goliad County

Sheriff Thomas E. Watt  
Grayson County

Sheriff Don G. Sowell  
Grimes County

Sheriff Chanze W. Fowler  
Hartley County

Sheriff Brent Clapp  
Hemphill County

Sheriff Botie Hillhouse  
Henderson County

Sheriff James R. Scifres  
Hockley County

Sheriff Roger Deeds  
Hood County

Sheriff Thomas Spurlock  
Jack County

Sheriff Allen Castleberry  
Kimble County

Sheriff Brad Coe  
Kinney County

Sheriff Scott C. Cass  
Lamar County

Sheriff Gary Maddox  
Lamb County

Sheriff Micah Harmon  
Lavaca County

Sheriff Garrett Durrenberger  
Lee County

Sheriff Robert J. Rader Jr,  
Liberty County

Sheriff Ty Lane  
Lipscomb County

Sheriff Chris H. Busse  
Loving County

Sheriff Bobby D. Adams  
Madison County

Sheriff Joseph Lancaster  
Mason County

Sheriff Frank "Skipper" Osborne  
Matagorda County

Sheriff Parnell McNamara  
McLennan County

Sheriff Emmett L. Shelton  
McMullen County

Sheriff David A. Criner  
Midland County

Sheriff Anthony Pool  
Mills County

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Presidio County

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Robertson County

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Roberts County

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Rockwall County

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Runnels County

Sheriff Johnwayne Valdez  
Rusk County

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San Augustine County

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Shackelford County

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Tom Green County

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Tyler County

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Upshur County

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Val Verde County

Sheriff Joe Carter  
Van Zandt County

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Zapata County

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Hidalgo County

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Coryell County

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Camp County

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Kerr County

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Andrews County

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Chambers County

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Lubbock County

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Kleberg County

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DeWitt County

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Jim Hogg County

Sheriff Matt Hogg  
Dawson County

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Brazoria County

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Coleman County

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Refugio County

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Lynn County

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Dallam County

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