

WRITING SAMPLE

DOUGHERTY CAMPAIGN/ FINAL EDITORIAL SUBMITTED TO THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

Neighbor,

I have had the honor of personally speaking with many of you during this campaign about challenging issues, common goals, and our vision for our great community. We all are focused on protecting our homes, our children, and our rights. I am proud to have a role in upholding these values by participating in this uniquely American tradition of running for Sheriff as the Republican candidate. I do not take this designation lightly. In fact, I have spent the past year of my life fully invested in winning your vote and becoming your next Sheriff. I am a proud Republican, but I look to be a Sheriff for ALL the people and serve everyone equally.

Livingston County is filled with caring, passionate, and active families, who share my vision for safer neighborhoods and who agree with me that safety is compromised when the integrity of law enforcement is compromised. We need—now, more than ever—a drastic change in the leadership and management of the Livingston County Sheriff's Department. I am prepared to both lead with fairness and serve with dignity, as I have since the first day I was sworn in as a police officer.

Leadership in drug enforcement.

As both a Road Patrol Deputy and an Investigator for the Livingston County Sheriff's Department, I have personally tackled the issues of drug and other violent crimes. Matt Bean, my choice for Undersheriff, and I firmly believe that the prevention of and zero tolerance for illegal drug activities is the foundation of a healthy and safe community. I have taken an active role in eradicating these harmful substances from this community with hundreds of drug arrests over my career. Several factors play a role in successful drug enforcement initiatives—experience, training, instinct, innovation, and teamwork—the same requisite qualities that I will bring to the Department as Sheriff.

Leadership in school safety.

In my door-to-door travels during this campaign, I have been listening to parents and teachers as they share their concerns over the increased threats to our kids in schools from bullying, cyber-bullying, increased drug use, and fears of violence. I am often asked what more we can do and how the Sheriff's Department can address these very real challenges.

One of my biggest concerns is the rate at which violence can escalate in the realm of social media,

without being detected by parents, teachers, or authorities in a timely manner. Under my leadership, the Sheriff's Department will stay current with trends in violence that surface on the Internet. To keep streets safer, we put deputies on the streets. To keep kids safer on the Internet, we need an authoritative presence there as well.

One of my administrative priorities will be to create a new Anti-Bullying Task Force and proactively work with our School Resource Officers, School Administrators, Parent Teacher Associations, and other partners/resources to prevent bullying and cyber-bullying.

Experience in ethical business practices.

Extensive transparency in our Sheriff's Department is desperately needed and will be one of my primary initiatives, if elected. Keeping the Department's activities and agencies—Criminal Investigation, Patrol Division, 911 Operations, Corrections—in the open holds all of us accountable. These agencies and the Sheriff's Department represent the highest order of law enforcement in the County and are, therefore, subject to the highest standards of management, fiscal responsibility, and ethics.

I also understand that the community wants assurance that law enforcement is policing its own, as they are policing the general public. I vow that anyone found responsible for misconduct will be held accountable, no matter how high their rank or their social status. I also promise that I will be transparent about these activities with the people we serve.

In addition to improved internal investigations, a healthy and effective Sheriff's Department requires mindful spending, efficient use of existing resources, and ethical leadership. Administrative performance will be diverted away from old habits and will be required to achieve a new standard of excellence.

Entitlements and favors will be a thing of the past under my administration. My priority will be to run the Sheriff's Department with integrity while being fiscally prudent with taxpayer dollars.

The Livingston County Sheriff's Department mission statement, which I believe in firmly, currently states that it is our job:

To preserve the rights of citizens and reduce fear in the community through prevention of crime, protection of persons, property, and the

maintenance of order in public places and anticipate and respond to events that threaten public order and the protection of life and property. It is essential all members remember that in the execution of their duties, they act not for themselves but for the good of the public. They shall respect and protect the rights of individuals and perform their services with honesty, zeal, courage, discretion, fidelity, and sound judgment.

Thank you to my supporters.

I would be remiss if I did not thank all of you who fought tirelessly through this long campaign. You will never know how much I appreciate your positive outlook and your faith in me over the past several months. I am grateful for your support, your perseverance, and your action.

One woman approached me, recently, and said that our positive campaign changed her life. Not only does your vote make a difference, so does your positive attitude. Thank you for representing our platform and vision with dignity by taking the high road with me. They have dubbed our campaign the "big red machine" but machines do not have hearts, you folks certainly do! We are not a machine but a "big red team", and I could not be more proud!

Election Day November 5th

I have been endorsed by the people who know law enforcement best: Troopers, Deputies, Officers, and Senator Patrick Gallivan, who served as a past Captain with the New York State Police and was elected Erie County Sheriff prior to being a Senator. I hold these endorsements in high regard. Cops who do their job right have the ability and experience to lead on day one.

However, the endorsement that means the most to me is your vote on November 5th. I vow to step away from the status quo and serve ALL the people of Livingston County.

Kind Regards,

Tom Dougherty,
Republican Candidate for Livingston County Sheriff
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