SHERIFFS 101
Building community power in Florida

INTERPRETATION: para español, llame (786) 665-8802
pou kreyol, rele (305) 901-2692
WEBINAR PURPOSE

• Learn about the Freedom4Florida Coalition
• Learn more about the role of sheriffs in your community
• Learn how to support campaigns to demand change and hold sheriffs accountable in your community
SPEAKERS

• Courtney Peters, Dream Defenders
• Sen. Dwight Bullard, New Florida Majority
• Catoya Roberts, Advancement Project National Office
• Ky’Eisha Penn, Advancement Project National Office
• Tiffany Yang, Advancement Project National Office
SHERIFFS & THE HISTORY OF POLICING
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What do we mean when we say:

Policing
COLONIZATION, ENSLAVEMENT, AND COLONIAL AMERICA

- Sheriffs
- Night Watchmen
- Slave Patrols
- Vigilantes
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EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

1863: Emancipation Proclamation
EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

1865: Thirteenth Amendment

13th Amendment

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.
EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

1865: Thirteenth Amendment

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EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

1860s: Black representation in political office
EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

1870s: Paramilitary groups like the White League, Red Shirts, and the KKK violently police and intimidate Black voters
EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

1877: White segregationists regained political power in every southern state
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Institutionalized Racism: Enforcing Jim Crow Laws

New Industrial Economy: The rise of labor organizing
Institutionalized Racism: Enforcing Jim Crow laws

New Industrial Economy: The rise of labor organizing
1870-80s: Institutionalized Racism
Enforcing Jim Crow laws

Formal unified policing departments in most U.S. cities

New Industrial Economy:
The rise of labor organizing
THE PAST IS NOT PAST
MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

Sheriffs are elected officials
MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

Sheriffs are elected officials

- Directly accountable to voters
MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

Sheriffs are elected officials

- Directly accountable to voters
- Not subject to accountability from city councils or mayors
- Subject to far less oversight than other law enforcement
MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

Policing

Jails

Immigration

Civil Enforcement
MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

- Broad policing powers (arrests, investigations, warrants)
- Where does the policing occur?
  - Rural or unincorporated areas
  - Contracted cities or towns
  - Courthouses
  - Airports
  - Waterways, ports
  - Schools
MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

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More on this later.
MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

- Policing
- Jails
- Immigration
- Civil Enforcement

- Manage county and regional jails
- Administers related carceral programs, like drug court or probation
- Responsible for transportation to and from the jail
MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

- Florida has been ground zero for experimentation
  - 287(g) agreements
  - Basic ordering agreements
  - Anti-immigrant state legislation (SB168)
  - Warrant service office program
MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

- Policing
- Jails
- Immigration
- Civil Enforcement

- Carries out the orders of the court
- Conducts evictions
- Civil asset forfeiture
SHERIFFS & THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
As the U.S. epicenter of the coronavirus shifts from the Northeast to the Sun Belt, Florida’s total case count has officially surpassed that of New York.

Chandan Khanna/AFP via Getty Images
A joint statement from Faith in Florida, Southern Poverty Law Center and Dream Defenders urges Gualtieri to release pre-trial detainees who don’t pose a public safety risk and inmates held on detainer requests from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

“Jails and prisons combine the worst aspects of cruise ships, conferences, or other large public gatherings and thus breed entirely unnecessary risk for those on both sides of the jail walls,” the statement said. “Under current conditions, any unwillingness or refusal to release those incarcerated is shortsighted, dangerous, and cruel.”
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Hillsborough sheriff releases 164 county jail inmates to reduce coronavirus risk
SHERIFFS & THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

What about arrest and enforcement practices?

Hillsborough sheriff releases 164 county jail inmates to reduce coronavirus risk
Clock Running Out on Florida's Eviction Moratorium, Leaving Landlords and Tenants in Limbo

By CHRIS REMINGTON • JUL 24, 2020

Florida's moratorium on evictions is set to expire next week. It's estimated more than 800,000 Floridians could lose their apartments or homes if it's not extended.

MIAMI HERALD
Clock Running Out on Florida's Eviction Moratorium, Leaving Landlords and Tenants in Limbo

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This leaves hundreds of thousands of Floridians wondering whether they need to find a new place to live or will be able to stay put.

“Looking at it from a statewide basis, the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel found 1.2 million households that are having difficulty paying the rent and more than 800,000 could be evicted in the next four months,” said Sean Rowley Tenant's Rights Advocacy Director for Legal Services of Greater Miami.

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MIAMI HERALD
DEFUND POLICING
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BROWARD COUNTY SHERIFFS FACTS

2020 COUNTY GENERAL FUND

SHERIFF
$543,194,260
CULTURAL
(LIBRARIES, PARKS, RECREATION)
$116,460,710
HUMAN SERVICES
$78,235,280
OTHER
$737,890,250

- Sheriff: 37%
- Human Services: 5%
- Cultural: 8%
- Other: 50%
SHERIFFS & SCHOOL POLICING

The School-to-Prison Pipeline
WHAT IS THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE?

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnGctoUq-fA
WHAT IS THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON-PIPELINE?

The policies and practices that are directly and indirectly pushing students out of school and on a pathway to prison, including:

- Harsh school discipline policies that overuse suspension & expulsion.
- Increased policing & surveillance that creates prison-like environments in schools.
- Overreliance on referrals to law enforcement & the juvenile justice system.
- An alienating & punitive high-stakes testing-driven academic environment.
SHERIFFS & SCHOOL POLICING

WHAT ARE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS?

School Resource Officers (SROs) are sworn law enforcement officers whose primary function is to provide law enforcement while stationed in schools.

WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH SHERIFFS?

In some Florida counties, sheriff’s deputies work as SROs through local contracts, creating a threatening environment for students and feeding the school-to-prison pipeline.

Counties where the Sheriff’s Office provides SROs to schools within the district:

- Alachua County
- Broward County
- Escambia County
- Leon County
- Osceola County
- Orange County
- Pinellas County
SHERIFFS & SCHOOL POLICING

Following the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL which resulted in the deaths of 17 people, Florida state legislatures responded by passing legislation that requires one armed officer at each school.

WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM?

- Students of color are disproportionately policed in schools nationally. Black and Latinx youth make up over 58% of school-based arrest while representing only 40% of public school enrollment.
- Black students are more than twice as likely to be referred to law enforcement or arrested at schools than their white peers.
CURRENT STATE OF SCHOOL POLICING

Students of color are more likely to attend schools that employ school police officers, but no school counselors.

Black Students are 3 times more likely to attend a school with more security staff than mental health personnel.

1.6 million students attend a school with school police, but not a school counselor.

For more information on work being done around school policing and the school-to-prison pipeline please check out our We Came to Learn Report on our website: https://advancementproject.org/wp-content/uploads/WCTLweb/index.html#page=52
VOTING IN FLORIDA

Important Upcoming Dates
• August 8\textsuperscript{th}–15\textsuperscript{th} Early Voting Period for the Primary Election
• August 18\textsuperscript{th} Primary Election
• October 5\textsuperscript{th} Voter Registration Deadline for the General Election
• October 24\textsuperscript{th}–31\textsuperscript{st} Early Voting Period for the General Election
• November 3\textsuperscript{rd} General Election

Voter Registration – 3 Ways
• Online: \url{https://registertovoteflorida.gov/home}
• By Mail/In Person at your county Supervisor of Elections office, local library, or any entity authorized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to issue fishing, hunting, or trapping permits.
• While getting certain government services, \textit{e.g.}, Florida driver’s license offices

You must show a valid \textbf{Photo ID + Signature} to vote in person
• If your Photo ID doesn’t include a signature, you will be asked to provide another identification that does have your signature. Without proper ID, you can vote by provisional ballot as long as you are eligible and your signature on that ballot matches the signature on the registration record.
VOTING IN FLORIDA

Restoration of Rights

• If convicted of a felony other than murder or felony sexual offense, your right to vote is restored once you have completed all terms of your sentence, including probation and parole.
  • The issue of whether you would also have to pay off related fines and fees remains unclear and will be heard before an appellate court this month.
• Persons with a felony conviction should check online at flrestoremyrights.com to determine whether their civil rights have been restored.
  • If an individual’s rights have been restored, no documentation of restored civil rights is required in order to register to vote.
• Persons who have had their rights restored and register, could still receive notification from their county supervisor of elections office stating their rights are not restored because of a prior felony conviction.
  • If an individual receives such a notice, he/she should also receive a packet containing proof of the conviction, a photocopy of their DL or other identifying information, the date and time of the conviction, and the county in which the conviction occurred.
  • All persons whose right to vote is denied based on a pervious felony conviction has the right to appeal the decision at the County Supervisor of Elections office where the notice originated.
VOTING IN FLORIDA

How do I vote by mail?
• Except on Election Day, no excuse is needed to cast a vote-by-mail ballot.
• You can request to vote by mail to your Supervisor of Elections’ office online, in writing, in person, or by phone.
• The ballot must be returned and received by your Supervisor of Elections’ office by 7 p.m. on Election Day. (Other return options are available for Military and Overseas Voters.)

Election Day
• Polls are open from 7am until 7pm. (You must be in line by 7pm.)
• You must vote in the precinct where you live and can look it up online.
• Voting a provisional ballot is a last resort. Voting by regular ballot is always preferred.
  • If your name is not found on the precinct register, and if a poll worker concludes that you cannot vote by regular ballot, then you should accept a provisional ballot.
  • You have the right to present written evidence of your eligibility to vote to your County Supervisor of Elections’ office no later than 5pm on the Thursday after the election.
• You have the right to assistance in voting due to limited English proficiency, disability, or inability to read or write.
• There are federal and state prohibitions on voter intimidation.
SHERIFFS 101

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THANK YOU!