

# ELECTION2014

## Koochiching County Sheriff

Below are the questions The Journal sent to the candidates for Koochiching County Sheriff. Their responses are below.

1. Briefly summarize your personal background and experiences.



**BRIAN JESPERSEN**

1. I was born and raised in Koochiching County and I am a 1984 graduate of FHS. I graduated from Vermillion Community College and Hibbing Law Enforcement Skills in 1986. In 2013, I graduated from the National Sheriff's Association Institute, in Colorado. I have been Sheriff of Koochiching County since June 1, 2012. Prior to that, I held the Chief Deputy position under Sheriff Youso from Jan. 1, 2007 until May 31, 2012. I also served 19 years for the City of International Falls as a police officer. I have successfully investigated minor to major crimes, including murder. I have served as a K-9 officer, D.A.R.E. officer and am past president of the Law Enforcement Local 105. I am a past president of Little League and have coached local youth in baseball, softball, hockey and football.

2. The 27 years I have dedicated to my law enforcement career gives me the experience needed to continue as the Sheriff of Koochiching County. As Sheriff, I am also the Emergency Manager for the county which prepared me for the role of Incident Commander during the flood operation this spring. Also implemented the Mass Notification System in early 2014 which ended up being a very useful tool during the flood. This experience along with the many contacts in the Law Enforcement Community and with Emergency Management leaders were a great asset during this time when

difficult questions would arise. My experience with Search and Rescue operations and the ability to navigate Rainy Lake, day or night, is a must for the Sheriff of this county. I have good working relationships with the OPP, Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota DNR, US Customs & Homeland Security, Border Patrol and Voyagers National Park. I also work with surrounding County Sheriffs as we rely on each other for back up on serious calls. As Sheriff, I am responsible for providing security in the court room, the jail, transports of civil commitments and the service of civil process.

3. Emergency Management is just one area that I see in the near future as being an issue for Koochiching County. The State and Federal requirements for this position continue to lead to more planning and paperwork which very well could require a full time Emergency Manager.

4. I wish to initiate a local TRIAD in Koochiching County. This is a community based partnership between Law Enforcement agencies and individuals involved in elderly care issues. The goal of TRIAD is to reduce criminal victimization of the elderly by bringing together community agencies to form a relationship of trust with the elderly, enabling them to jointly recognize and solve problems. TRIAD stands for The Right Information and Direction. To continue being proactive with crime prevention to keeping the residents of Koochiching County in a community that is safe to live in and raise a family. The Sheriff's Office Mission Statement is always foremost in my mind: To serve everyone with Respect and Dignity and

to do so with Honor, Integrity and Pride.



**PERRYN HEDLUND**

1. I was born and raised in the International Falls area and have been a lifelong resident of Koochiching County. I have been married to my beautiful wife for 11 years and we have 3 wonderful kids. I graduated from Rainy River Community College and Bemidji State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. I worked part time for the International Falls Police Department for one year before accepting a job with U.S. Customs. After almost 4 years with U.S. Customs, I returned to the International Falls Police Department as a full time police officer. I have accumulated a wealth of experience over my 13 year career including my time in federal law enforcement. My most recent experience includes field training officer, active shooter instructor, drug task force member, and current union representative.

2. I believe I am the best candidate for Sheriff based upon my ability to lead and work with others. I have worked hard during my career to serve the community in a professional and impartial manner. I strive to treat everyone with honesty, fairness, and integrity. I believe it is imperative that a leader lead not by words alone but by example. As the elected Sheriff, I pledge to work hard to provide the residents of Koochiching County with the best possible law enforcement

services we can provide.

3. One of the biggest issues facing Koochiching County is how to effectively serve a small population spread across the second largest county in the state. This is only accomplished by meeting with the residents in those areas on a routine basis to discuss with them any concerns they may have and work with them to develop effective solutions to any problems that may arise. It is important to be cognizant of the needs of our entire county and work with all the stakeholders to improve the quality of life in Koochiching County.

4. If given the opportunity to serve the residents of Koochiching County as the next elected Sheriff, there are several things I will accomplish. I will work towards improving the relationship that the Sheriff's Office has with all of the other local, state, and federal agencies in the area. I will bring a greater sense of transparency to the Office, including but not limited to the hiring practices and procedures of the department. I pledge to listen to the concerns of the citizens and work with them towards a viable resolution of any issues that may arise. I will work with and not against the other players in the criminal justice system to ensure that the residents of Koochiching County are served in the most effective and efficient way possible. As Sheriff, I intend to be an example of what strong, positive leadership can accomplish. The Sheriff's Office is not a job to be taken lightly and the citizens of Koochiching County deserve a Sheriff that will be professional in all aspects and look out for the best interests of the whole county.

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## International Falls School Board

Below is the candidate for the International Falls School Board, Independent School District 361. Three board member positions, which are four-year terms, are up for election. The candidate was asked to submit a 250-word biography.



**TOM HOLT**

Hello, my name is Tom Holt. I am running for Independent School District 361 school board. I have resided in the International Falls area all my life, graduating from Falls High School in 1981.

I have been married to my wife Melissa for 24 years and we are proud to raise our two children, Dylan and McKenna, in our church, this town and that they are able to attend the same school that we attended and are so proud of.

I am a proud union member of local W33 and have been an employee of Boise Paper for the past 20 years. I am a member of the Evangelical Covenant Church where

I have been co-commander of the Awana program for the past four years and volunteered as a leader for five years prior to that.

I am president of the International Falls Outdoor Expo and a board member of the International Falls Recreation Commission. I have coached football for eight years with the past three assisting the varsity team. I have also coached little league and rec basketball.

I enjoy working with kids, they amaze me every day. In my years of coaching and working in the Awana program, I've had the opportunity to get to know some of the kids in our community, and believe they have unlimited potential if given the chance.

If I am elected, you can be assured that the needs of our children will be my first concern.

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Sat.	Cinnamon Swirl French Toast with ham & eggs
Sun.	Blueberry Cream Cheese Crepes with eggs & ham

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Mon.	Half Chicken Dinner	\$10.99
Tues.	Full Rack of BBQ Ribs	\$17.99
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Fri.	Fishermen's Catch	\$16.99
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