

Gillespie County Sheriff Parent Questionnaire 2024

	Buddy Mills	Chris Ayala	Nick Krupa
1. Will you protect the rights of parents to direct the care, custody, control, education, moral and religious training, and medical care of their child at the local, state and federal level?	Yes	<p>To be honest I did not know there was any other way. I have worked with youth for over two decades as an educator and a police officer/SRO. The most difficult part in this endeavor was parent involvement. In many cases the young students came from single parent homes, raised by relatives, and people related to the family. I will always protect the rights of parents and or legal guardians to always do what is best for their children. I always encouraged students to be a part of their family and remind them family comes first. As a parent myself of five amazing children it is my most important role to raise them in the word of God. The make sure to educate them for the future in both knowledge and best health practices.</p> <p>The parent in all cases should have the final say and should be given all options and legal protection to protect their children as the parents, legal guardians see best for their family.</p>	<p>Absolutely. The above list of concerns and the decisions to be made concerning children should entirely be in the hands of their parents and not the government.</p>
2. Regarding medical kidnapping of minors, will you ensure that social workers, therapists and others in the mental health field are following both state and federal law in regards to parental rights over their children? Will you ensure that social workers within their jurisdiction conduct home visits lawfully, only entering a home with a warrant and probable cause?	Yes, Yes	<p>My main goal if elected Sheriff of Gillespie County is to create a working relationship with all agencies within the county. This begins by listening to the people of Gillespie County and admitting I do not know it all. I will work to learn all laws related to protecting families and their children. The Sheriff's Office if I am elected, will always display the highest respect to the US and State Constitution; warrants based only on probable cause will be served.</p> <p>I believe the highest relationship to a family is respect, we should always work together to do what is best for a child.</p>	<p>Social workers, therapists, and others in the mental health field have no authority to enter a home without a court order or a warrant. Doing such without a court order or warrant would be a clear violation of your 4th amendment rights.</p>

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<p>3. What can you do as Sheriff to help control the drug and vaping concerns at local high schools? Do you have a community outreach plan to inform parents?</p>	<p>Our continued arrest of drug violators and sharing of the information of those arrest in the paper, on the radio and on several social media platforms serves as notice. Our community involvement with parents and students at all schools, not just the high school provides opportunity and outreach to students and parents alike.</p>	<p>I believe the first step is to get important groups like the Mom's for Liberty to speak to our legislators regarding the current laws that make it difficult to enforce certain laws on school campuses.</p> <p>Second every health and law enforcement agency should get together to assist in the import of the health consequences as well as the long term legal consequences. I for many years hosted drug, vape, internet and cellphone safety related parent meeting at FHS, FMS, and FES for years. I sadly had the parents attend that were doing a great job on their own show up to the presentations. I currently teach DAEP students in Comfort ISD regarding the dangers of vapes, fentanyl, phone and internet safety. I also have done the same for all middle school grade levels at the Comfort ISD.</p> <p>If elected the youth of the community will be on of my highest priorities by placing well trained deputies as SROs in the school to assist local police departments.</p>	<p>Law enforcement needs to have a multi-faceted approach to this issue that involves working with the parents in the schools to educate the kids about the dangers of drugs and addiction, combined with strict enforcement of the law to hold people accountable to dissuade other kids from going down the wrong path. Throughout my police career, I have worked with numerous law enforcement officers who have trained for years to be able to attack these specific issues. If elected, I would put together a community outreach plan using that knowledge and best practices, including having those officers mentioned above come to speak in our schools. I would also be able to speak to our schoolchildren about drugs and vaping. While assigned to the gang unit in Houston, I was tasked with going into schools and community centers to educate them on the dangers of drugs and gang activity.</p>

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<p>4. What can you do as Sheriff to ensure our children are protected from sexually graphic materials being made available to them through our schools and libraries?</p> <p>Since the passage of HB 900 or better known as Reader Act the Legislature has already put into effect a law requiring the removal of several books that fall into this category. Texas Board of education and librarians are tasked with following the law.</p>	<p>I will always follow the US and Texas constitution regarding questionable material. I cannot enforce peoples thoughts or suggestions if elected Sheriff. Parents should have the final say what their children will check out from the school libraries. The most important place for a child to learn about choices is in the home. I do believe there should be age appropriate guidelines in the schools related to reading material just as there is in other entertainment systems.</p>	<p>When sexually graphic materials are present in our schools, that concern needs to be addressed through the school administrators and school board. What I can offer from a law enforcement perspective is training and education to parents and teachers about what I believe is a bigger threat than the books that are currently in the library. If I understand correctly, current school policy dictates that a parent or guardian must consent to allow their children access to those materials. In this day and age, you have to realize that nearly every child has a device, either on them at all times or at home, which is exponentially more likely to expose them to sexually graphic materials. A book in the library is not nearly as accessible to a young person as a smartphone or an iPad. Throughout my career, I have worked with several organizations whose sole purpose was to safeguard children. One of the organizations is the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. In working with them, I have learned that unrestricted or unmonitored access to the internet is one of the most dangerous threats facing our kids today. With the invention of the internet making the entirety of human knowledge and history available with the click of a mouse, you have to realize all the bad that is out there too. A significant portion of my career involved tracking down and arresting child predators, and in doing such, I learned the vast majority of those incidents begin on the internet. In my current role, I investigate juvenile sex offenses and I find it to be true with those as well.</p>

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5. Regarding the recent increase of illegal immigration, drug/alcohol and child predator arrests/incidents, what will some of your priorities be to protect the children of Gillespie County?	<p>Our Sheriff's office is very proactive in arresting human traffickers, drug and alcohol offenders and child predators, just to name a few of the other violators we encounter and arrest routinely. We encourage the citizens of the county, through our education, information and enforcement actions, to help us by reporting any and all crimes against anyone regardless of age. As we all know our children are the future, that's just one of the reasons why your Gillespie County Sheriff's Office is " Our Family Protecting Yours "</p>	<p>Protecting the youth of this community has been my priority for the past 23 years. I have been blessed to have been a part of so many young lives and have seen the positive results daily. I have made many friends along the way by showing the highest respect to them. I always believe the youth should be reminded with every interaction to respect themselves and understand the true value they are. If elected Sheriff of Gillespie County the youth will be one of my highest priorities as a leader in the many communities in Gillespie County.</p>	<p>One of my priorities is to get school resources officers, employed by the Gillespie County Sheriff's Office, back in our county schools to have direct involvement targeting drug/alcohol issues. We also need advanced training for targeting trafficking along our highways. Sexual assaults of children are one of the most difficult types of cases for an investigator to work. To do this effectively, our deputies need specialized training to work on those cases. In the future, I would like to actively recruit a qualified female detective to join our criminal investigations division. In my experience in dealing with women and young girls who suffer traumatic experiences like this, it is of the utmost importance to have someone who can directly relate to female victims. If elected, I have pledged to take \$40,000 out of the current elected Sheriff's annual salary of \$126,000, to reinvest those funds into training for our deputies, to combat these issues.</p>
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