

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

HEARING ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Melissa Pleimann, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

DATE: January 6, 2025

SUBJECT: Resolution appointing Acting Sheriff until vacancy filled

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Jefferson County elected Sheriff Joe Nole tendered his notice of intent to retire effective January 3, 2025, prior to the expiration of his term. The office will be vacant as of January 4, 2025. The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners will proceed with the statutory obligations to fill the partisan vacancy within the next 60 days. In the interim, it is in the interest of the citizens of Jefferson County for the Board to appoint an Acting Sheriff until the vacancy is filled.

ANALYSIS:

RCW [36.16.115](#) authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to appoint an employee serving as a deputy or assistant as acting sheriff until the vacancy in any partisan county elective office is filled through election or appointment as required by law. Undersheriff Andrew Pernsteiner has stated his willingness to serve as Acting Sheriff until the vacancy is filled. The appointment of Undersheriff Pernsteiner will ensure the duties of the Sheriff are performed to continue the normal operations of the office. The appointment is contingent upon the County Administrator and Undersheriff Pernsteiner coming to agreement on appropriate compensation for his performance of the additional duties of Acting Sheriff.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Undersheriff Pernsteiner be compensated for his performance of the additional duties of Acting Sheriff. This will be budget neutral because this amount will be less than the pay of the retiring Sheriff Nole.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached resolution appointing Undersheriff Andrew Pernsteiner Acting Sheriff.

REVIEWED BY:



Mark McCauley, County Administrator

1/3/25

Date

STATE OF WASHINGTON
County of Jefferson

**In the Matter of Appointment of Andrew
William Pernsteiner as Acting Sheriff for
Jefferson County**

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the elected Sheriff has vacated the office prior to the expiration of his term;
and

WHEREAS, the procedure for appointing an Acting Sheriff is set forth in RCW
[36.16.115](#); and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has determined that it is in the interests
of Jefferson County and its citizens to appoint an Acting Sheriff until such time as the vacancy is
filled; and

WHEREAS, Undersheriff Andrew William Pernsteiner, an employee of the Jefferson
County Sheriff's Office, is qualified to be acting sheriff pursuant to RCW [36.16.115](#) and has stated
his willingness to serve as Acting Sheriff until such time as the vacancy is filled; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
JEFFERSON COUNTY, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Whereas Clauses are Findings of Fact. The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners
hereby adopts the above "Whereas" clauses as Findings of Fact.

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of this resolution is to appoint Undersheriff Andrew William
Pernsteiner as Acting Sheriff for Jefferson County.

Section 3. Appointment of Acting Sheriff. Undersheriff Andrew William Pernsteiner is hereby
appointed as Acting Sheriff for Jefferson County. Andrew William Pernsteiner shall serve as
Acting Sheriff for Jefferson County until a successor is either elected or appointed as required by
law. This appointment is contingent upon the County Administrator and Undersheriff Pernsteiner
coming to agreement on appropriate compensation for his performance of the additional duties of
Acting Sheriff.

Section 4. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or section of this
Resolution or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this
Resolution or its application to other persons or circumstances shall be fully valid and shall not be
affected.

Section 5. SEPA Categorical Exemption. This Resolution is categorically exempt from the State
Environmental Policy Act under WAC [197-11-800 \(19\)](#).

Section 6. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon
passage by the Board of County Commissioners, and until such time as the vacancy is filled.

(SIGNATURES FOLLOW ON THE NEXT PAGE)

ADOPTED and APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

SEAL:

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Heidi Eisenhour, Chair

Greg Brotherton, Member

Heather Dudley-Nollette, Member

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Carolyn Gallaway, CMC Date
Clerk of the Board

Melissa Pleimann, Date
Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney