



SPOTLIGHT!

Interim Sheriff WANTED!!!

March 2026

2024-2026 Executive Board members:

- Stacy Storm - Chair
- Michael Blake - Vice Chair
- Mary LaVelle - Secretary
- Wayne Turner - Treasurer
- Isaac Taylor - State Committeeman
- Suzy Taylor – State Committeewoman
- Trinity Stucker – 7th Legislative Dist.Cmt.
- Ray Campbell - 7th Legislative Dist.Cmt.
- Anthony Jenkins - 7th Legislative Dist.Cmt.
- Kim Frey - Area 1 Chair
- Kelly Knapp - Area 2 Chair
- Nick Timm - Area 4 Chair
- Yvette Hill - Area 5 Chair
- Tina Holan - Area 6 Chair



Okanogan County Interim Nominee Candidate

Interviews (L-R):

County Under-Sheriff Dave Yarnell, County Chief Criminal Deputy/Field Operations Jodie Barcus, former County Deputy Michael Blake, County Patrol Deputy Gisberth Gonzalez and former Omak/Brewster LE Officer Clark Kraemer with moderator and OCRP Chair Stacy Storm

~picture taken by Suzy Taylor

Under the Washington State Constitution Article II, section 15, vacancies in partisan county elective office are filled by the county legislative authority (County Commissioners) from a list of **three nominees** from the county central committee of the same party, and **if the County Commissioners fail to agree within 60 days**, the governor (Governor Bob Ferguson) appoints from that list within the next 30 days. The constitutional text remains the controlling source for the “three nominees from County Party/ 60 days for County Commissioners to appoint/ governor within 30 days” requirement.

~ [Washington State Constitution](#)



March 22, 2026

For Immediate Release

Due to the resignation of Okanogan County Sheriff Paul Budrow, effective April 6, 2026, the Okanogan County Republican Party Central Committee, as charged by the Washington State Constitution and directed by RCW 36.16.115, sought applicants for the interim position of Okanogan County Sheriff. Six candidates submitted application packets. On Sunday, March 22 the Okanogan County Republican Central Committee met and interviewed five of the applicants for the purpose of choosing three nominees for interim Okanogan County Sheriff to submit to the Okanogan County Commissioners. It was a pleasure to hear from so many capable, well qualified applicants.

The OCRP Central Committee voted to forward the following three ranked nominees to the County Commissioners:

1. Dave Yarnell
2. Jodie Barcus
3. Michael Blake

The County Commissioners will have 60 days from April 6 to choose an individual from the list of nominees above to fill the interim Sheriff position. If the Commissioners fail to make a selection from the three nominated individuals by June 5, Governor Bob Ferguson will select the interim Sheriff from the list above.

We appreciate the efforts of all the candidates who participated in the process. Each candidate brought valuable skills, insights and experiences to the process. We also would like to thank the dedicated Precinct Committee Officers who evaluated the candidates and submitted their votes.

Thank You,
Stacy Storm
OCRP Chairman
509.429.7287



March 22, 2026

Dear Okanogan County Commissioners,

County Sheriff Paul Budrow recently submitted a letter of resignation, effective April 6, 2026. In conformity with the Washington State Constitution and in accordance with RCW 36.16.115, the Okanogan County Republican Party Central Committee received applications for the position from six applicants. On March 22, the OCRP Central Committee met, heard presentations by five of the applicants. From those five, we are forwarding the following three ranked nominees for your consideration:

1. Dave Yarnell
2. Jodie Barcus
3. Michael Blake

Please accept the OCRP nominations with consideration to their ranking.

You will find attached the application packet submitted by each of the three nominees which includes, letter of intent, resume, questionnaire, letters of reference and oath of party affiliation.

Thank You,
Stacy Storm
OCRP Chairman
509.429.7287

Dear Interim Sheriff Nominee Candidates,

On behalf of the Okanogan County Republican Party, I want to sincerely thank each of you for your time, effort, dedication, and willingness to serve the citizens of Okanogan County by putting your name forward for consideration for the Interim Sheriff position.

Stepping forward to serve in law enforcement leadership is a significant act of commitment to both public safety and the well-being of our communities. The time and thought each of you invested in this process reflects a deep respect for the office and for the people of Okanogan County. Your willingness to be considered is appreciated and commendable.

We also want to express our appreciation for the diversity of experience, cultures, perspectives, and backgrounds that each candidate brought to this process. Every one of you contributed something valuable, and your varied professional paths, personal histories, and leadership approaches helped strengthen the discussion and decision-making surrounding this important appointment. Okanogan County benefits when individuals with different life experiences and viewpoints step forward in service to their communities.

Following the vote, the candidates were ranked in the following order:

1. Dave Yarnell
2. Jodie Barcus
3. Michael Blake

We strongly encourage all interested candidates, whether selected to be put forth as a nominee for final selection by the Okanogan County Commissioners or not, to file for the sheriff position during the upcoming filing week. Non-selection to advance in this particular interim appointment process is not indicative of non-endorsement for public office by the Okanogan County Republican Party. OCRP looks forward to further conversations with all candidates who file for Okanogan County Sheriff through the formal vetting process to obtain an election endorsement by the Party.

Please know that your willingness to serve is deeply respected, and your participation in this process is appreciated. Okanogan County needs dedicated individuals who are willing to lead, step forward, and answer the call to public service. Thank you again for your commitment to our county and its citizens.

Sincerely,
Stacy Storm
OCRP Chairman
509.429.7287

“Community safety is a shared responsibility, and trust is its currency.”

~ Chief Amanda Ruiz

Paid for by the Okanogan County Republican Party - P.O. Box 3504, Omak, WA 98841
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