

Oregon State Sheriff's Association expels Kent van der Kamp

[Jim Cornelius](#) | Last updated May 20, 2025 9:40am

The Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) has expelled Deschutes County Sheriff Kent van der Kamp from the organization's board of directors in the wake of revelations that he testified falsely under oath about his educational background.

In a press statement, OSSA Executive Director Tim Svenson stated that, "A few weeks ago, the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA) learned that the Deschutes County District Attorney's Office, led by District Attorney Steve Gunnels, had conducted a lengthy investigation into issues involving the truthfulness of Deschutes County Sheriff Kent van der Kamp. The investigation found that Sheriff van der Kamp had been untruthful about his educational credentials in multiple criminal cases. As a result of this investigation, DA Gunnels determined that the DA's office would no longer use Sheriff van der Kamp as a witness in any criminal trial — a status commonly referred to as being placed on the Brady list."

Upon learning of this information, the OSSA Executive Committee met and determined that, under the OSSA bylaws, the board of directors should decide whether to temporarily suspend or permanently revoke Sheriff van der Kamp's position as a director on the OSSA Board. Sheriff van der Kamp was notified that this question would be presented to the OSSA Board at the spring conference, and that he would have an opportunity to address the board before a decision was made.

According to Svenson, Sheriff van der Kamp did not appear to address the board, nor did he submit any written materials for the Board to consider.

On May 14, the Board met and considered the issue. A motion was made to permanently expel Sheriff van der Kamp from serving as an OSSA director. The motion passed unanimously, with 32 Oregon sheriffs voting on the issue. Sheriff van der Kamp was immediately expelled from the OSSA Board of Directors.