

Vote on Policing

Elected officials including the Governor, State Legislators, Mayors, City Council members and Sheriffs are directly responsible for how policing is done in our communities.

Your vote for these officials is your vote on policing.

Use your power responsibly.

Hold your officials accountable.

VOTE.

Elected Official: Governor

Their Power:

- Chief of the Executive Branch
- Appoints Attorney General - the “AG”

The AG:

- The state’s top law enforcement officer
- Controls the Office of Emergency Management

- Appoints Office of the State Comptroller “OSC”
(The **OSC** is an independent state agency which serves the public by conducting audits and investigations of government agencies throughout New Jersey.)

What That Means:

Can sign into law and recommend impactful legislation for police conduct and standards.

The Governor of New Jersey appoints the State Director of the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Through OEM, police departments across NJ participate in the military surplus 1033 program that has transferred over \$32 million in military hardware from the federal government.

- The **OSC** conducts risk-based audits of the Division of State Police.
- The **OSC** seeks compliance with the Law Enforcement Professional Standards Act and identifies discrepancies in a police departments documenting and reviewing of police activity.

Elected Official: Mayor

Their Power:

Head of the municipal government

Appoints **Police Chief**
(Head of the municipal police force)

Prepares and submits an annual budget to the municipal council for its consideration and approval by vote.

What That Means:

Can work alongside municipal council to implement use of force policies.

Police Chiefs have the authority to ensure compliance with the state’s use of force policy and reporting the violation of said policy.

The annual budget includes the municipality’s allocation for the police department.

Elected Official: Sheriff/County Police

Their Power:

Formally, the **Sheriff** is responsible for the county jail but also has the authority to arrest for the commission of crimes anywhere in the county.

What That Means:

Has the authority to enforce NJ's Code of Criminal Justice.

Elected Official: State Legislature

Their Power:

Proposes legislation; controls and regulates finances of state/local municipalities.

What That Means:

- Control the local/state police budget.
- Can implement resolutions for use of force policies.
- Proposes legislation about policing, such as oversight of participation in the 1033 Program and the use of body cameras worn by police.

Elected Official: Municipal Council

Their Power:

Although there are different forms of municipal governments, council or committee members pass ordinances or resolutions to serve a public purpose.

What That Means:

- Responsible for policing budgets.
- Required to approve any requests for military equipment made by the local police department through the 1033 program.
- Can pass large scale changes:
 - Newark's City Council passed a Civilian Complaint Review Board.
 - The Camden City Council disbanded the Camden Police Department and replaced it with a regionalized countywide police force.