



# Sheriff Steve Stovall

*Stephenson County Sheriff's Office*

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## **SHERIFF STOVALL RESPONDS TO GOVERNOR'S COMMENTS ON THE SAFE-T ACT**

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker has recently indicated that he is open to discussing potential changes to the SAFE-T Act. As Sheriff of Stephenson County, I appreciate the Governor's willingness to revisit this legislation and to engage in dialogue with law-enforcement leaders across Illinois. Open discussion is a necessary first step toward ensuring that our pretrial justice system protects public safety while remaining fair and constitutional.

Since implementation of the SAFE-T Act, law-enforcement agencies throughout Illinois have raised serious concerns regarding provisions that limit our ability to detain individuals charged with serious and violent offenses, as well as repeat offenders. While reform of our justice system is important, those reforms must not come at the expense of community safety or victim protection.

Individuals accused of the most serious and violent crimes should not be routinely released back into the community while awaiting trial. When someone poses a clear and articulable threat to public safety, the law must allow courts to detain that individual to prevent further harm.

Our justice system must prioritize victims and survivors of crime. Victims deserve safety, dignity, accountability, and confidence that the system is working to prevent further victimization—not creating conditions that allow violent offenders to reoffend while cases are pending.

As Sheriff of Stephenson County, my responsibility is to protect the people who live, work, and raise families in our communities. Any changes to state law must ensure that deputies and police officers have the legal tools necessary to do their jobs safely, effectively, and responsibly.

I strongly urge the Governor and members of the General Assembly to work directly with frontline law-enforcement professionals as these discussions move forward. If the shared goal is safer communities across Illinois, the experience and perspective of those who serve on the front lines must be part of the solution.

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