

GEOFF DEAN

— FOR SHERIFF —

LEADERSHIP FOR TODAY'S NEEDS - COURAGE FOR TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES

Dear Neighbor,

I'm running for Sheriff because I believe I have the qualifications and the experience to keep our communities safe.

Unfortunately, this election isn't just about qualifications. There is also a hidden issue: Who should choose our next Sheriff? The incumbent? Or the people of Ventura County?

For the last 32 years the answer has been: The incumbent chooses – with no public input. Each retiring Sheriff quietly chose a successor and other candidates were "discouraged." Voters were presented with a done deal: one candidate and no choice.

Making this decision behind closed doors is bad for our County. It injects politics into public safety. It stifles new ideas. And it robs voters of a chance to consider new leadership.

That's why I refused to go along with the system. Last year, when Sheriff Brooks let it be known he was retiring, I didn't wait for the traditional "anointment." I announced I would run for the job.

I knew there would be consequences, but I never realized how political it would be. You probably read about it in the newspapers: It took an independent investigation to save my job! That independent commission also stated that the Sheriff should not try to control the democratic process.

We need to get politics out of the Sheriff's office. Maybe that's why I've had such a surge of community support. I've been endorsed by dozens of mayors, council members, police chiefs and school board members – and by groups representing all the front-line deputies, police officers, prosecutors and probation officers in Ventura County.

Proud as I am of their support, what I really need is you. I've taken some heat for insisting on your right to choose the next Sheriff. Now I hope you'll give me a chance to earn your vote on June 8th.

I make one promise: If you choose me, no one in the Sheriff's office will waste time on politics. We'll spend every minute working to make Ventura County the safest place in America.

Sincerely,

Geoff Dean