



**STATE OF ALABAMA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

STEVE MARSHALL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

501 WASHINGTON AVE  
MONTGOMERY, AL

June 30, 2025

The Honorable Kay Ivey  
Governor  
State Capitol  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Governor Ivey,

On behalf of the law enforcement professionals at large, we write to ask that you reappoint Ms. Leigh Gwathney as Chair of the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

In 2019, we supported your efforts to reform our state's system of pardons and paroles. While those reforms have been effective, the most consequential decision that you made during that time was to place Ms. Gwathney at the helm of the board. Ms. Gwathney's experience prosecuting violent crimes for both Jefferson County and the Attorney General's Office makes her uniquely qualified to preside over the parole board. More importantly, her willingness to continue to serve in the face of unprecedented and unwarranted criticism by the liberal media shows a level of courage, conviction, and dedication to the cause that is rarely seen in Montgomery. Ms. Gwathney has earned the trust and respect of law enforcement, prosecutors, and crime victims across our state, all of whom now have a stake in seeing her reappointed.

In the years leading up to Ms. Gwathney's ascendance to chair, our state was on a misguided and dangerous trajectory related to crime and punishment—particularly when it came to sentencing. The previous parole board chair believed that her duty was to address prison overcrowding, and as you know, that came at a high societal cost. Today, nearly 85% of our prison population is comprised of violent offenders—individuals who should not be back on our streets—yet the parole board continues to face relentless pressure to release these offenders *en masse*. Ms. Gwathney has proven herself to be beyond the influence of the anti-incarceration movement, ready and willing to fight for the law-abiding citizens of this state.

Throughout your tenure as governor, you have stood shoulder to shoulder with those of us who wear the badge and uphold the law. The decision to reappoint Ms. Gwathney will send a clear and unmistakable message that you stand with those who protect the public, and against outside forces and special interests who care little about public safety and more about rhetoric.

As representatives of the law enforcement and prosecutorial communities from across our great state, we urge you to stand by your previous support of Leigh Gwathney and reappoint her to lead the parole board.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Marshall  
Attorney General

**Stephen Winters**  
District Attorney  
1<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Scott Anderson**  
District Attorney  
8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Charlotte Tesmer**  
District Attorney  
2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Summer Summerford**  
District Attorney  
9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Ben Reeves**  
District Attorney  
3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Chris Connolly**  
District Attorney  
11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Mike Segrest**  
District Attorney  
5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**James Tarbox**  
District Attorney  
12<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Hays Webb**  
District Attorney  
6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Keith Blackwood**  
District Attorney  
13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Lynn Hammond**  
District Attorney  
7<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Bill Adair**  
District Attorney  
14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Azzie Oliver**  
District Attorney  
15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Jody Willoughby**  
District Attorney  
16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Rachael England**  
District Attorney  
17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Matt Casey**  
District Attorney  
18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**CJ Robinson**  
District Attorney  
19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Russ Goodman**  
District Attorney  
20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Steve Billy**  
District Attorney  
21<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Walt Merrell**  
District Attorney  
22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Rob Broussard**  
District Attorney  
23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Andy Hamlin**  
District Attorney  
24<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Scott Slatton**  
District Attorney  
25<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Rick Chancey**  
District Attorney  
26<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Jennifer Bray**  
District Attorney  
27<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Robert Wilters**  
District Attorney  
28<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Steve Giddens**  
District Attorney  
29<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Lyle Harmon**  
District Attorney  
30<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Hal Houston**  
District Attorney  
31<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Champ Crocker**  
District Attorney  
32<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Kirke Adams**  
District Attorney  
33<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Jeff Barksdale**  
District Attorney  
34<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Todd Watson**  
District Attorney  
35<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Errek Jett**  
District Attorney  
36<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

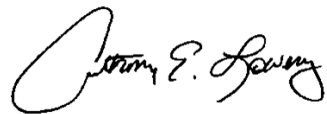
**Jessica Ventiere**  
District Attorney  
37<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Jason Pierce**  
District Attorney  
38<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Brian Jones**  
District Attorney  
39<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Joe Ficquette**  
District Attorney  
40<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

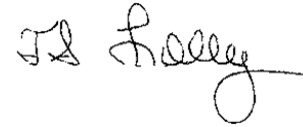
**Pamela Casey**  
District Attorney  
41<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit



Sheriff Anthony Lowery  
Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

*Jeff Nelson*  
Sheriff Jeff Nelson  
Chambers County Sheriff's Office

*Jeff Shaver*  
Sheriff Jeff Shaver  
Cherokee County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Scott Lolley  
Choctaw County Sheriff's Office

*Scott Byrd*  
Sheriff Scott Byrd  
Coffee County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff David B. Turman  
Covington County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Mason Bynum  
Dale County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Bill Franklin  
Elmore County Sheriff's Office

*Donald Valenza*  
Sheriff Donald Valenza  
Houston County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Joshua McLaughlin  
Limestone County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Phil Simms  
Marshall County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Paul Burch  
Mobile County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Roy Fikes  
Perry County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Heath D. Taylor  
Russell County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff R. John Samaniego  
Shelby County Sheriff's Office



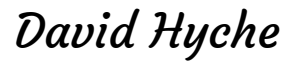
Chief Nick Bowles  
Anniston Police Department



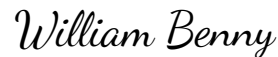
Chief Cedric Anderson  
Auburn Police Department



Chief Tonikos Vandiber  
Bishop State Community College



Chief David Hyche  
Calera Police Department



Chief William Benny  
Dothan Police Department



Chief David Davis  
Fort Payne Police Department



Chief Justin Lovvorn  
Greenville Police Department



Chief Tim Ross  
Homewood Police Department

*Kirk Giles*

Chief Kirk Giles  
Huntsville Police Department

*Marcus Wood*

Chief Marcus Wood  
Jacksonville Police Department

*Shane Fulmer*

Chief Shane Fulmer  
Jemison Police Department

*John Boy Summers*

Chief John Boy Summers  
Level Plains Police Department

*Johnny L. Gandy*

Chief Johnny L. Gandy  
Madison Police Department

*James Graboys*

Chief James Graboys  
Montgomery Police Department

*Reece Smith*

Chief Reece Smith  
Moody Police Department

*Roy G. Walton*

Chief Glenn Walton  
Odenville Police Department



Chief Shane Healey  
Opelika Police Department



Chief Steve Brown  
Orange Beach Police Department

*Chief Jason Dobbins*

Chief Jason Dobbins  
Owens Cross Roads Police Department



Chief Bill Partridge  
Oxford Police Department

*Richard Black*

Chief Richard Black  
Reform Police Department

*Jerry L. Garrett*

Chief Jerry L. Garrett  
Town Creek Police Department