



The Capital

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For sheriff: Bateman

FOUR YEARS ago, **Ronald Bateman** ran for county sheriff pledging to reduce a backlog of unserved warrants that left hardened criminals on the streets. After he being elected to fill the shoes of veteran Sheriff George Johnson, he has energized the office and reduced that backlog by an impressive 38 percent — in part through a series of theatrical but effective sting operations.

An Academy Award is out of the question, but we think county voters should reward Bateman with another term in office. We endorse him over his Republican opponent, Patrick Jameson, a technology professional and retired state trooper who says he is fighting the “old-boy network.”

The sheriff is respected by Republicans and Democrats alike and was born and raised in this county, while his opponent has been here less than three years. Bateman was with the county police for 23 years, and was captain of the department’s Northern District. He understands law enforcement and he knows this county and its residents well.

A favorite Bateman tactic has been to devise stings that lure unsuspecting criminals with promises of everything from tax refunds to Valentine’s Day gifts. But he has also brought more professionalism and better training to the sheriff’s office, even as tight county budgets have forced him to reduce discretionary spending by 19 percent. His ability to improve performance while spending less makes him easily deserving of a second term.