



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mar. 17, 2026

Greene County Commission Announces Selection Process for Interim Sheriff Upon Sheriff Arnott's Pending Confirmation as U.S. Marshal

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — The Greene County Commission announced today the selection process for the position of Interim Greene County Sheriff, upon the pending confirmation of Sheriff Jim Arnott by the United States Senate after his recent nomination by President Donald Trump to serve as the next U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Missouri.

The United States Marshals Service is the nation's oldest federal law enforcement agency, established by President George Washington in 1789 to serve the original 13 judicial districts. The position of U.S. Marshal has remained a presidential appointment ever since.

Under federal law (28 U.S.C. § 561), U.S. Marshals are appointed by the President and must be confirmed by the United States Senate. Sheriff Arnott's nomination will be reviewed by the Senate Judiciary Committee before advancing to the full Senate for a confirmation vote. Sheriff Arnott will continue to serve as Greene County Sheriff until he is formally confirmed and assumes his new role. Upon his departure, and the acceptance of his resignation by the County Commission, the Office of Sheriff will become vacant.

Missouri law places the responsibility for filling a sheriff's vacancy squarely with the County Commission. Under RSMo § 57.080, whenever the Office of Sheriff becomes vacant for any reason, the County Commission shall fill the vacancy by appointment. RSMo § 105.030 further requires that the Commission act no later than fourteen days after the vacancy occurs.

To ensure a seamless transition with no gap in law enforcement leadership for Greene County, the Commission is beginning the selection process now, ahead of the vacancy, so that it is prepared to act promptly once the Senate confirmation process is complete.

Election Process

It is important to note that any person appointed as Interim Sheriff will serve on a temporary basis only. The citizens of Greene County will ultimately choose their next Sheriff through the electoral process. The interim appointee, like any other candidate, would need to run and be elected by voters in order to continue serving in the role.

The timing of an election depends on when the vacancy takes place. If the vacancy occurs within nine months of a general election, the sheriff's race is placed on that general election ballot. If it occurs more than nine months before a general election, the Commission is required to call a special election.

If the vacancy occurs after March 17, 2026, but prior to the election on August 4, 2026, the regular primary filing window will have closed, therefore there will not be sufficient time for candidates to file through the normal process. In that case, RSMo § 115.363 provides that each political party's county committee would convene to select its nominee, and those nominees would be placed directly on the ballot for the November 3, 2026 general election. Independent candidates may also potentially seek placement on the ballot through the petition process provided by law.

If the confirmation process extends into late fall 2026 or beyond and the vacancy does not occur in time for the race to appear on the November 2026 ballot, the Commission would be required to call a special election at a later date, on or before the 10th Tuesday after the vacancy occurs.

The person elected serves the remainder of the unexpired term through December 31, 2028.

Applicant Qualifications

Under Missouri law (RSMo § 57.010), any person seeking the Office of Sheriff must meet the following requirements:

- Must not have been convicted of or pled guilty to a felony (RSMo § 57.010 and § 115.306)
- Must be a United States citizen
- Must possess a valid peace officer license (POST)
- Must be a resident, taxpayer, and registered voter of Greene County
- Must have resided in Greene County for more than one year
- Must be a person capable of efficient law enforcement
- Must not be delinquent in the payment of any state income taxes, personal property taxes, municipal taxes, or real property taxes (RSMo § 115.306)

How to Apply

Interested, qualified individuals should submit a resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV), the Appointment for Interim Sheriff Checklist, and any supporting materials to

appointment@greencountymo.gov. The checklist is available on the Greene County homepage at www.greencountymo.gov under the Interim Sheriff Selection Process section.

The checklist collects applicant contact information, voter registration details, and confirmation that the applicant meets all statutory qualifications for the Office of Sheriff. It also includes an authorization for a full background investigation and a consent to the public disclosure of the applicant's name and resume.

All submissions must be in a non-editable format such as PDF. Submissions in editable formats such as MS Word documents will not be accepted. The deadline for submissions is 5:00 p.m. **April 15, 2026.**

However, if the federal confirmation process concludes before that date, the Commission will be required by law to move quickly to make an appointment and ensure there is no lapse in law enforcement leadership for Greene County residents. Therefore, potential applicants are encouraged to apply early in the event the process becomes expedited.

Full Transparency

The Commission is committed to conducting this process, like all others, with complete transparency, which citizens have grown accustomed to and expect. The names of all applicants, along with their submitted materials, will be posted publicly and updated daily on the Greene County homepage at www.greencountymo.gov under "Interim Sheriff Selection Process." Citizens will not need to submit any records requests to view this information as it will be readily accessible to anyone who wishes to review it.

"The Greene County Commission is following Missouri state statutes exactly as they are written and is acting on the legal guidance of the County Counselor throughout this process," said the Greene County Commission. "We are committed to being fully transparent with the citizens of Greene County. Every resume will be made publicly available, and we will ensure there is a smooth and lawful transition that protects public safety. The people of Greene County deserve to know how their next sheriff is being selected, and we intend to make sure they have every opportunity to see this process firsthand."

The overall timeline for the appointment is dependent on the United States Senate confirmation process. The Commission will continue to provide updates as the process moves forward.

For more information, visit www.greencountymo.gov.

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Greene County is the State of Missouri's fourth most populous county, serving approximately 308,000 people. Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

For additional information contact the Greene County Commission's Public Information Office at 417-844-4311 or pio@greenecountymo.gov.