



# *OFFICIAL STATEMENT*

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## RESPONSE TO DEPUTY SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN POLITICAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**August 23, 2006**

**East Lansing – For Immediate Release**

Recently the Deputy Sheriff's Association of Michigan (DSAM) mailed out a *Candidate Questionnaire* to candidates running for House and Senate seats in this year's election. While we applaud the efforts of DSAM to endorse political candidates, as well as staying abreast of issues that concern them, it was troubling to see that two of the questions were prejudicial towards the Michigan State Police with one of those questions being plainly deceptive.

Question 5 asks about "free" State Police services. Whether delivering direct law enforcement services through daily road patrols or conducting criminal investigations; or sustaining other law enforcement agencies through its various support services, the State Police have already been paid for through tax monies collected by state government. Those taxes pay for the majority of all services delivered by the state, including the State Police. It is misleading and illusory for DSAM or any organization to make a claim that State Police services are free.

Question 6 does not take into account communities that elect to receive the basic level of law enforcement service that the State Police provide. Residential and business owners in these communities pay their state taxes and are entitled to these services. The question also fails to account for communities who do not have a sufficient overall tax base to support their own law enforcement agency or to afford enhanced services through other means.

The Michigan State Police Troopers Association welcomes the opportunity to discuss this or any other issue of concern for our elected officials relative to the safety of Michigan's citizens. Please feel free to contact Mr. Matt Wesaw, MSPTA Director of Government Relations, at 517-336-7782.

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