

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: November 5, 2008

AMERICA'S TOUGHEST SHERIFF WINS HOTLY CONTESTED RACE AGAINST DEMOCRATIC OPPONENT

Vows to Run Again to Continue Policies of Fighting Illegal Immigration and Maintaining an Austere Jail System

(Phoenix, AZ) Election 2008 proved to be a tough race for the man widely known as "America's Toughest Sheriff" but in the end, the collaboration of the news media, open borders activists and local politicians did little to sway voters away from the popular Sheriff.

Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who runs the nation's third largest Sheriff's Office, won his fifth, four-year-term as Sheriff of Maricopa County in a landslide victory garnering 55% of the estimated 1.7 million voters in the state's most populous county. His democratic opponent garnered only 41% of the vote.

"It's the people who matter, not the news media which did everything it could to take me down...not the local politicians and the open borders activists who joined forces to stop my fight against illegal immigration, and certainly not my opponent," says Sheriff Arpaio. "Ultimately, their collected rants about me and my office did not persuade the people of this county to turn against me."

The effort to unseat the Sheriff was due in large measure to the fact that Arpaio has long been at the forefront of the national discussion on illegal immigration.

His crime suppression sweeps and arrests of smugglers and the people they attempt to smuggle remain the center of a heated debate, locally and nationally, about the role of local law enforcement in the fight against illegal immigration. To date, his deputies and detention officers have arrested or caused the deportation of approximately 17,000 of illegal immigrants.

Even elected officials in his own county have protested the Sheriff's policies on illegal immigration. The Phoenix mayor called for an FBI investigation to examine whether the Sheriff is "racially profiling" Hispanics in the crime suppression operations. No such finding has been made.

Arpaio was also targeted by his opponent and special interest groups because of his austere jail system and his inmate housing policies. Arpaio opened the world-renowned Tent City in 1993, which currently houses about 2000 convicted inmates, male and female, in Korean War tents. He also started chain gangs. And he is very vocal about his belief that jails are not hotels. Inmates in

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Arpaio's jails eat 15 cents meals, have little access to television, and have been made famous by their pink underwear and black and white striped uniforms.

"The programs and policies I instituted since becoming Sheriff 16 years ago will continue," Arpaio says. "There is more work to be done, particularly in the area of illegal immigration. Therefore, I am formally announcing today that 2008 will not be my last campaign."

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