

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Missoula County Sheriff TJ McDermott Announces His Re-Election Plans for 2018**

*Missoula, MT*—TJ McDermott, Missoula County’s Sheriff, is announcing his candidacy for re-election in 2018. He will officially file paperwork on Thursday, January 11, as a Democratic Candidate in the 2018 Missoula County Sheriff’s Election, the first day candidates can file for office.

“Sheriff McDermott is a people-caring person,” said former Missoula County Sheriff Doug Chase. “TJ makes sure his people are well trained, well equipped and dedicated to the safety of the general public. My wife and I fully support his decision to run for re-election and look forward to the future of the department under his continued leadership.”

An 22-year veteran of law enforcement, McDermott began his career as a police officer with the Anaconda Police Department in 1995. TJ joined the Missoula City Police Department in 1998 and served nearly six years with the department.

“Sheriff McDermott recognizes that law enforcement is a community effort,” said recently re-elected Missoula Mayor John Engen. “And he brings respect for citizens, compassion for victims and a commitment to making positive change to the justice system. I’m happy to support TJ in his campaign for re-election”

In 2003, McDermott joined the Missoula County Sheriff’s Office and was initially assigned to the uniform patrol division before becoming a detective in 2006. During his seven years in the detective division, McDermott worked hundreds of cases as a detective in both the Burglary Theft Division and Person Crimes Division.

In 2007, McDermott was selected to be a member of the Montana Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. During his three years on the ICAC Task Force, McDermott was instrumental in dozens of cases involving the solicitation of minors for sexual activity and the possession and distribution of child pornography. In 2010, McDermott was selected as his agency’s ‘Officer of the Year’, in large part due to his investigative efforts that resulted in the arrest and conviction of two adult males who were operating an on-line Teenage Prostitution Ring in Missoula.

In 2011, McDermott was selected by the National Association of Police Organizations as one of the nation’s ‘Top Cops’ for his work in solving an 18-year old cold case homicide.

McDermott was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant and then supervised other detectives conducting criminal investigations, through 2014. TJ is a former member of the F.B.I. Montana Regional Violent Crimes Task Force. McDermott also served multiple terms as the President of the Missoula County Deputy Sheriff's Association.

In November of 2014 the citizens of Missoula County overwhelmingly elected TJ to become Missoula County's next Sheriff.

TJ's commitment to the citizens of Missoula County is inspiring," said Missoula County Commissioner Cola Rowley. "Sheriff McDermott showed great leadership in bringing forward the Missoula City-County Jail Diversion Plan for low-level, non-violent offenders. I enthusiastically endorse his re-election."

"I am so proud of our brave women and men—a well-trained and dedicated team—that have stepped up to the plate every day, every call, and through every situation, regardless of the threats and dangers faced personally," said McDermott. "It is what we do as your Sheriff's Department. And it is our honor and duty, both under the law and as our moral obligation for the citizens we serve."

The Sheriff's team has moved the department forward and solidified around their pledge to county citizens: *To manage the Sheriff's office with a proactive approach to crime prevention that ensures all citizens are treated with dignity and respect, victim's rights are upheld, and criminals receive just punishments according to the law.* "TJ is not only a dedicated Sheriff, but a truly honorable and respected leader," said Rich Maricelli, McDermott's Undersheriff. "TJ is raising the bar for what it means to be the chief law enforcement official in the county."

"TJ has served us very well in bringing the men and women of the Sheriff's Office together over the last four years," said retired District Court Judge Ed McLean. "They work cohesively as a unit and in coordination with other agencies, the Missoula Police Department, the Montana Highway Patrol and the HIDTA Drug Task Force. It would behoove of us to retain Sheriff McDermott for four more years."

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*(Press: Please find the attached picture of TJ McDermott for your files and use.)*