

Sheriff Jeffrey R. Gahler

Sheriff Jeff Gahler was first elected as the Harford County Sheriff in 2014. As the head of the primary law enforcement agency in Harford County and the largest sheriff's office in the State of Maryland, Sheriff Gahler is responsible for providing comprehensive law enforcement, correctional services, and court security for Harford County's 268,000 residents. He leads a workforce of 684 sworn and civilian personnel and manages an annual operating budget exceeding \$140 million.

Sheriff Gahler is a veteran law enforcement professional with over 40 years of public safety experience, including a distinguished 28-year career with the Maryland State Police. He is a strong advocate for higher education and continuous professional development, having earned his Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's degrees while serving with the State Police.

A leading voice against sanctuary policies, Sheriff Gahler has served as an active member of the National Sheriffs' Association Border Security Committee since 2018. Under his leadership, the Harford County Sheriff's Office maintained active federal law enforcement partnerships - including the **287(g) program** to ensure that foreign criminal offenders are identified and removed from local communities.

In June of 2026, Sheriff Gahler took a central role in defending local public safety by serving as the lead plaintiff in a federal lawsuit filed against the State of Maryland, Governor Wes Moore, and Attorney General Anthony Brown. Representing a coalition of Maryland sheriffs, the legal challenge targets "sanctuary state" legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly, specifically the **Community Trust Act**, which restricts local law enforcement from communicating and cooperating with federal immigration authorities. Sheriff Gahler continues to lead the fight against state-mandated restrictions that tie the hands of local jurisdictions and jeopardize community safety.

A 49-year resident of Harford County, Sheriff Gahler lives in Forest Hill with his wife, Sonya.