

The background of the page features a large, semi-transparent seal of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The seal is centered and depicts an eagle with wings spread, perched atop a shield. The shield is divided into three sections: the top section shows a ship on the water, the middle section shows a plow, and the bottom section shows three sheaves of wheat. The shield is flanked by two horses, one on each side, facing outwards. The entire seal is set against a dark blue background.

The Rise of Lawfare: Targeting Pennsylvania Constables

This article, produced by the PA Fraternal Order of Constables, aims to expose a troubling pattern emerging in Pennsylvania, where numerous District Attorneys, detectives, and other law enforcement agencies are resorting to **LAWFARE** tactics to erode the authority and capabilities of elected State Constables. Within this document, we delve into the essential role of Constables, their significance throughout the history of the Commonwealth, the legal foundation of their powers, and most importantly, the distressing maneuvers employed to impede their vital duties.

What is LAWFARE?

LAWFARE, as defined here, signifies the strategic use of legal maneuvers to disrupt and disadvantage an adversary. In the context of this press release, it pertains to the calculated and manipulative strategies employed by law enforcement entities to target and impede State Constables, entrusted with law enforcement authority within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

These tactics involve imposing administrative obstacles and lodging unfounded charges, with the goal of subverting the inherent policing powers vested in Constables, all of which are current and up to date. Such targeted actions not only breach ethical standards but also erode the trust and confidence of voters who have democratically elected these Constables. Lawfare endangers the proper balance of law enforcement across the state.

The Vital Role of Pennsylvania Constables

Originally, Pennsylvania had two elected law enforcement figures vested with the power to enforce laws: the Sheriff and the Constable. Over time, however, various statutes have led to some of the Constables' powers and authorities being shared with other law enforcement agencies across the Commonwealth. Unlike many other law enforcement agencies, Constables operate without any taxpayer-funded salaries, office provisions, or legal defense support. Despite these challenges, Constables serve at the pleasure of the electorate, representing a cost-effective and accountable aspect of law enforcement. Their role as guardians of peace and as executive officers within townships and boroughs underscores their crucial contribution to maintaining law and order throughout Pennsylvania.

Enduring Powers and Duties

The role of Constables as the keeper of the peace is well-established, dating back to ancient times preceding the Norman Conquest. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld this role in its Supreme Court decisions.

Inherent Policing Powers

Constables' policing powers are inherent to their office and are vested in them by centuries of statutes and case law.

Serving the People

Constables serve at the pleasure of the people who elect them, and they impose almost no burdens on taxpayers, making Constables a cost-effective and accountable form of law enforcement.

The Rise of Lawfare Tactics Against Constables

Pennsylvania is currently experiencing a disturbing surge in the deliberate use of **lawfare** tactics against Constables, despite Constables pivotal role in law enforcement. Several District Attorneys, detectives, State Police, and other police agencies are employing various tactics to obstruct Constables ability to perform their duties.

Manipulating Language and Definitions

Certain law enforcement agencies are manipulating language and definitions to deny Constables their inherent policing powers, undermining the voters and the authority that they have bestowed upon the elected Constable.

Creating Administrative Hurdles

Administrative hurdles are being created to obstruct Constables from exercising the powers of arrest vested in their office by centuries of Pennsylvania law. For example: despite the FBI's approval, State Police refuse to issue Constables ORI numbers, hindering Constables ability to file criminal complaints.

Filing Unwarranted Charges

Numerous instances have emerged where District Attorneys, detectives, and other police are harassing and filing charges against Constables for carrying out their lawful duties. Despite 100% of these lawfare charges being ultimately dismissed or resulting in not guilty verdicts, such occurrences are becoming increasingly common.

The Cost of Lawfare

The onslaught of charges against Constables, despite the ultimate dismissal of the charges or verdicts of “not guilty,” costs Constables thousands of dollars to defend themselves, and costs the county taxpayers thousands of dollars to press these invalid charges. This unethical targeting of Constables not only undermines the voters and the authority they have bestowed upon their elected Constables, but also places a significant financial burdens on the taxpayers to fund the lawfare attacks on Constables, and a significant personal financial burden on the Constables themselves, as well as a waste of taxpayer money.

Taxpayer Burden

Constables impose minimal burdens on taxpayers, as they neither receive salaries nor have their office necessities or legal defense funded by taxpayers. However, the **lawfare** tactics employed against them are forcing Constables to bear the financial cost of defending themselves against these unfounded charges.

Undermining Voter Trust

The persistent targeting of Constables by law enforcement agencies, despite the ultimate dismissal of the charges or verdicts of “not guilty,” undermines the trust of the voters who have elected Constables to uphold the law and to serve their communities.

Disrupting Law Enforcement

The creation of administrative hurdles to obstruct Constables from carrying out their duties, threaten the balance of law enforcement in Pennsylvania, potentially leading to a focused breakdown of the justice system.

Endangering Everyone

Constables face dangerous situations when they are stopped and harassed by other law enforcement officers. Moreover, Constables are also at risk when these officers misinform the public that Constables are not police. This misinformation can lead to the public disregarding Constables' orders during arrests.

When other agencies try to undermine the Constables' authority to the public, it places Constables, other police officers, and the public in danger when Constables exercise their lawful authority.

Taking Action Against Lawfare

If you are aware of **lawfare** tactics being used against your local elected Constables, consider contacting your municipality and your District Attorney to inquire about their policies and practices regarding the targeting of these elected officials.



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Step 1

Reach out to your District Attorney's office and express your concerns about the use of **lawfare** tactics against Constables in your area.



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Step 2

Request information about the specific policies and practices that govern the interactions between Constables and other law enforcement agencies in your jurisdiction.



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Step 3

Advocate for the protection of Constables' inherent policing powers and for the respect of the authority bestowed upon them by Pennsylvania law and by the voters.

Conclusion: Defending the Office of the Constable

The rise of **lawfare** tactics against Pennsylvania Constables is a troubling development that threatens the integrity of the state's law enforcement system, compromises the safety of officers and the public, and erodes the trust of the voters. By undermining the authority and independence of these elected officials, these tactics undermine the very foundation of accountable and responsive policing.

It is crucial that the legal community, lawmakers, and concerned citizens take action to defend the office of the Constable and to ensure that these elected officials can continue to serve their communities without interference or harassment. Only by preserving the independence and powers of the Constable can we maintain the proper balance of law enforcement in Pennsylvania and uphold the principles of justice and democracy.

The Importance of Constable Independence

Constables serve as an independent and accountable form of law enforcement, answerable to the people who elect them. Their ability to carry out their duties without interference from other law enforcement agencies is crucial to maintaining the balance of power and ensuring the integrity of the justice system.

Constables' Independence

Constables' independence from other law enforcement agencies allows them to serve as a check and balance, ensuring that no single agency holds too much power or acts with impunity.

Preserving the Balance of Power

Protecting the independence of Constables is essential to preserving the balance of power within Pennsylvania's law enforcement landscape, preventing the concentration of authority in the hands of a few agencies.

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Accountability to Voters

Constables' direct accountability to the voters who elect them makes them responsive to the needs of the community and helps to ensure that they uphold the law fairly and without bias.

Resources

Contact Steven Ramos, Constable and Secretary of PAFOC at e-Mail: sramos@pafoc.us.
To Join the PAFOC or to support go to <https://www.pafoc.us>.

▼ Websites

- General Information, News, and Guides - <https://www.stateconstable.us>
- PA Fraternal Order of Constables - <https://www.pafoc.us>
- Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes - <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/public/>
- East Donegal Constable Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/@pastateconstable783>

▼ Just a few Constable Related Court Decisions

- Act 147 - <https://www.stateconstable.us/section-04-act-147/>
- Commonwealth v. Allen - <https://www.stateconstable.us/section-06-allen-case/>
- Galluze v. Miller - <https://www.stateconstable.us/section-07-miller-case/>

▼ Guide

- Constable Law Booklet contact constablecanning@gmail.com
- Comprehensive Constable Law Guide - <https://www.stateconstable.us/constable-law/>

