From: Katherine Patterson, Public Policy Polling

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Bristol County Sheriff Thomas Hodgson Vulnerable to Democratic Challenger

Date: February 19, 2021

A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that Bristol County Sheriff Thomas Hodgson is vulnerable to a potential Democratic challenger in the next election. A plurality (42%) of Bristol County voters say that, given the choice between voting to re-elect Hodgson and voting for a generic Democratic opponent, they would support his challenger. Just 36% of voters say they would vote for Hodgson.

Voters are divided in opinion on Hodgson, he is underwater by 1-point in favorability: 31% hold an unfavorable opinion and 30% viewing him favorably. A plurality (39%) are unsure whether or not they view him favorably.

Criminal justice reform and rehabilitation are important priorities for Bristol County voters when deciding who to support for sheriff. A majority (53%) say they would rather vote for a Democrat with legal expertise who will treat all people with dignity while promoting rehabilitation and ensuring appropriate food, healthcare, and educational opportunities. In comparison, just 37% say they would rather vote for a Republican with a background in law enforcement who will focus on locking up criminals and maintaining law and order while making sure illegal immigrants are not in their communities.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 577 Bristol County voters from February 8-9, 2021. The margin of error is +/- 4.1%. 50% of interviews for the survey were conducted by telephone and 50% by text message.
# Bristol County Survey Results

**Q1** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sheriff Thomas Hodgson?

- **Favorable** ........................................ 30%
- **Unfavorable** ........................................ 31%
- **Not sure** ........................................ 39%

**Q2** If the election for Sheriff were held today, would you vote for Republican Thomas Hodgson or would you vote for his Democratic opponent?

- **Would vote for Thomas Hodgson** .......... 36%
- **Would vote for his Democratic opponent** . 42%
- **Not sure** ........................................ 22%

**Q3** Which of the following priorities would you want to be the first priority of the Sheriff of Bristol County: taking care of taxpayer money; recruiting and training competent staff; fighting illegal immigration; basic care of people inside the jail including decent healthcare, food, rehabilitation, educational opportunities, and reducing returns to the jail; criminal justice reform and reducing mass incarceration; or reducing crime in Bristol County?

- **Taking care of taxpayer money** .......... 12%
- **Recruiting and training competent staff** .. 12%
- **Fighting illegal immigration** ................ 17%
- **Basic care of people inside the jail including decent healthcare, food, rehabilitation, educational opportunities, and reducing returns to the jail** .......... 23%
- **Criminal justice reform and reducing mass incarceration** .......... 15%
- **Reducing crime in Bristol County** .......... 15%
- **Something else / Not sure** ................. 7%

**Q4** I’m going to read you two profiles and ask which you would rather have as Sheriff of Bristol County. Here’s the first one: A Republican with a background in law enforcement, who will focus on locking up criminals and maintaining law and order and will make sure illegal immigrants aren’t in our communities. Here’s the second one: A Democrat with legal expertise who will treat all people with dignity, promoting rehabilitation as well as ensuring appropriate food, healthcare, and educational opportunities, and who has strong administrative skills to run a complex system.

- **Would rather vote for a Republican with a background in law enforcement** .......... 37%
- **Would rather vote for a Democrat with legal expertise who will treat all people with dignity** .......... 53%
- **Not sure** ........................................ 10%

**Q5** In the 2020 election for President, did you vote for Republican Donald Trump, Democrat Joe Biden, someone else, or did you not vote in the election?

- **Donald Trump** ........................................ 42%
- **Joe Biden** ........................................ 54%
- **Someone else / Did not vote** ................. 4%

**Q6** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

- **Woman** ........................................ 53%
- **Man** ........................................ 47%

**Q7** If you’re a Democrat, press 1. If you’re a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

- **Democrat** ........................................ 33%
- **Republican** ........................................ 20%
- **Independent / Identify with another party** .... 48%
Q8 If you are Hispanic or Latino, press 1. If you are white, press 2. If you are African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

- Hispanic or Latino ......................... 6%
- White ........................................... 81%
- African-American ............................ 6%
- Other ........................................... 8%

Q9 If you are 18-45 years old, press 1. If 46-65, press 2. If older than 65, press 3.

- 18 to 45 ........................................ 36%
- 46 to 65 ......................................... 39%
- Older than 65 ................................. 24%

Q10 What is the highest level of education you have received: high school graduate or less, some college but did not finish, 2-year college degree, 4-year college degree, or post-graduate degree?

- High school graduate or less .............. 35%
- Some college but did not finish .......... 22%
- 2-year college degree ...................... 10%
- 4-year college degree ...................... 19%
- Post-graduate degree ...................... 14%

Q11 Mode

- Landline ...................................... 50%
- Text ........................................... 50%