

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Ryan Miller, Independent Candidate for Sheriff, has announced his intent to file for candidacy as a Republican. This switch from Independent to Republican is announced after the passing of his fellow Candidate and friend Don Ebner.

“It is with a heavy heart that I heard of Don Ebner's passing today. Don was a friend, a brother in blue, and a man who shared the same passion and values for public service. Sadly, his time with us has expired, but that hardly means he will be forgotten.

Don and I spoke many times about our mission - to bring change, accountability, and integrity to our county government. I wish I could have seen the two of us, fresh with modern ideas and a new vision, work together to accomplish our mission.

Before his passing, Don made it known that if he could not continue the fight, he wanted me to pick up his torch and keep fighting for our mutual mission. I am humbled that Don would hold me in such high regard to encourage me to keep fighting for what is right, and also for him. I can and will accept this challenge, continue to fight for our county as I have been, and honor my friend in this endeavor.”

When asked about his switch to the Republican Party, Ryan stated,

“Don always encouraged me, even as a competitor in the election. He knew our goals were similar, even if our methods differed. He indicated to his supporters that if he could not continue to election day that he wished to support me. The race is now narrowed to two candidates that have filed, and while my independent principles remain intact, the numbers and voting history of much of America shows that non-party candidates rarely win. In an election as important as this, those truths must be taken into account if we are to change the direction this county is headed in.

Filing as a Republican makes my candidacy more competitive - it levels the playing field, especially in light of how difficult COVID-19 has made collecting signatures to appear on the ballot as an Independent. Furthermore, just because I have filed as a Republican does not mean my independent values have changed - quite the contrary. In my time talking with voters, there have been many robust discussions with people from all walks of life and political beliefs. I have found that you can disagree with some of a party platform and still identify common ground to collaborate on. As a Republican, I will represent the same beliefs I have always held and I will advocate for change in order to find a better way - better pay for deputies, furnishing all required equipment to deputies, improving conditions at the county jail, seeking grants for funding, emphasizing community engagement, and implementing technology in the sheriff's office to get the job done with greater professionalism and efficiency.”

Born and raised in St. Francois County, Miller is deeply rooted in his commitment to his community. He is a graduate of Farmington High School and subsequently attended the Mineral Area College Law Enforcement Academy, graduating as Valedictorian in 2010. Miller's law enforcement career began at Ste. Genevieve County where he gained experience as a jailer. Then, he came home to Farmington as a patrol officer, excelling as an investigator and crisis intervention officer. Currently Miller serves as an Investigator for the St. Francois County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. With each aspect of law enforcement under his belt, he is well equipped with the knowledge and experience to serve the County as Sheriff.

You can reach out to Miller on his Facebook page Ryan Miller for SFC Sheriff (@miller4sheriff), emailing him at [ryan@miller4sheriff.com](mailto:ryan@miller4sheriff.com), or visit his website at [www.miller4sheriff.com](http://www.miller4sheriff.com).