Sheriffs’ Association of Texas  
Platform Issues for the 84th Legislature

Issue #1: a.) Title V Appropriations - Funding for MHMR community & state hospital mental health services.  
b.) Code of Criminal Procedure - Mental health patients negative impact on county jails.  
Position: a.) Encourage the members of the 84th Legislature to significantly increase the current level of funding for MHMR and mental health services.  
b.) Texas Sheriffs believe that the county jail is not the appropriate place to hold a patient in mental crisis.  
Endorse efforts for the standardization of the Crisis Mental Health Commitment Process; for pre-arrest and post-arrest diversion of mental health patients from county jails; and for the development of a system of regional crisis intervention treatment centers to facilitate diversion.

Issue #2: Texas Border Security.  
Position: Sheriff advocate a unified strategic effort to secure the U.S.-Mexico border, preclude Trans-National Criminal operations along the corridors that link our Southwest and adjoining Gulf Coast Borders, and enforce the rule of law.

Issue #3 Code of Criminal Procedure - Blue Warrant inmates in Texas County Jails.  
Position: endorse the amending of statutes to provide relief for all Texas counties from the responsibility and expense of holding inmates arrested on blue warrants. Specifically, to reduce the number of inmates in county jails with Blue warrant holds, by not issuing new Blue Warrants for inmates arrested on new charges until the time they are finally adjudicated on those charges. Or allow bond on the blue warrant if they are eligible for on the new charges. Also, to set up reimbursement to the counties for medical and extraordinary special needs expenses from the first day of incarceration and to reimburse counties for daily expenses for all blue warrant inmates starting on the 15th day of incarceration.

Position: Endorse efforts to develop a state-wide enforcement effort coordinated with local sheriffs offices, designed to interrupt criminal enterprises involved in import smuggling of precursor chemicals for manufacture of methamphetamine, the product of methamphetamine and methamphetamine derivative. Endorse the development consistent statutes with national standards for the regulation of ephedrine base, pseudoephedrine base or phenylpropanolamine base products and commercially produced products containing these chemicals used for human medical and animal veterinary treatment.

Position: Endorse the ready access for all law enforcement agencies to the state-wide prescription drug monitoring program that can be searched to identify those who over-prescribe controlled substances, those addicted patients who “doctors-shop” and those who fraudulently obtain prescriptions.

Position: Texas Sheriffs Say No To Marijuana - Continue the prohibition of the manufacture, sale, possession, and use of marijuana, including all derivatives and synthetics that mimic marijuana.

Issue #7: Transportation Code - Distracted Driving.  
Position: Prohibit texting while driving. Texas sheriffs recommend that the Transportation Code be amended to include a statute that makes texting while driving a motor vehicle on a public road unlawful and to be enforced as a Primary Law.

Issue #8: Occupations Code - Restrict opportunities to sell stolen salvage metals and stolen articles.  
Position: Endorsement of further restrictions at point of sale of scrap metals and articles to include the requirement for sellers to be fingerprinted, materials/articles offered for sale to be photographed, and the buyer to pay by check to be mailed to the seller with no cash transactions permitted, and materials/articles to be held for a period of time beyond the time required to report the transaction to local law enforcement.

Position: Texas Sheriffs support raising the age of Juvenile Jurisdiction from 17 to 18 years of age.

Issue #10: Texas Constitution - Protect the Constitutional Office of Sheriff.  
Position: to vigorously protect the authority, duties and function of the Office of Sheriff. And, to promote an efficient county government by encouraging the elimination of redundancies created by duplication of law enforcement services.