



SCOTT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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The recently signed Virginia legislation restricting commonly owned semiautomatic firearms has prompted serious concern throughout Scott County and across much of rural Virginia. After careful review of the law and its implications, we believe it is important to state clearly that we do find this law unconstitutional.

As constitutional officers, we took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia. That oath requires us to evaluate laws not only through the lens of enforcement, but through the principles of constitutional liberty, due process, and the proper limits of governmental authority.

The citizens of Scott County are overwhelmingly responsible, law-abiding firearm owners. In our community, firearms are part of a longstanding tradition of hunting, farming, sport shooting, personal protection, and family heritage. The lawful gun owners in Scott County are not a threat to public safety, nor should they be treated as such by their government.

We also believe public safety is best served by focusing enforcement efforts on violent criminals and repeat offenders rather than imposing additional restrictions on citizens who have lawfully exercised their constitutional rights for years without incident. Effective law enforcement depends upon maintaining public trust, respecting constitutional boundaries, and directing limited resources toward genuine threats to community safety.

Our position is straightforward: we support the Constitution, we support the rights of law-abiding citizens, and we do not believe this unconstitutional law represents the appropriate balance between public safety and constitutional freedom.

Sheriff Jeff B. Edds
Scott County Sheriff's Office

Commonwealth's Attorney Kyle Kilgore
Scott County, Virginia