



# HALE COUNTY **SHERIFF**

**KENNETH W. ELLIS, SHERIFF**  
**JASON H. McCRORY, CHIEF DEPUTY**

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## OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

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July 11, 2011

### CITIZENS OF HALE COUNTY

### SHERIFF ELLIS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

On August 9th, 2011, there will be a county wide special election for an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama 1901. In 1992 Act Number 92-565 authorized the Hale County Commission to levy a three mill tax to build a new county jail for Hale County. The 1992 Amendment allowed funds only to be used to make annual bond payments on the jail, or any additions to the building, and nothing else. This tax currently generates excess funds over the bond payment amount, yet we cannot access this money for the needs of the Sheriff's Office. The county tax base is low and we do not have enough revenue to continue operating the Sheriff's Office and the County Jail without cutting necessary services to our citizens. In 2010 the budget for the Sheriff's Office was cut \$34,571, in 2011 it was cut an additional \$54,572. The County Jail was cut \$233,511 in 2010 and \$12,277 in 2011. We have been forced to lay off both full and part time employees as a result of cutbacks. The new amendment you will be voting on August 9th will allow us to use the excess amount collected from the three mill tax for law enforcement purposes only. This will allow us to prevent further cuts in our budget. There are a few things about this amendment I want all Hale County Citizens to know;

1. **THIS AMENDMENT WILL NOT RAISE YOUR TAXES** you will continue to pay the three mill tax whether the new amendment passes the ballot box or not. This is not an additional tax !!
2. **NO HIDDEN AGENDA** this money will be used for law enforcement purposes only and nothing else.
3. **TAX WILL CONTINUE TO BE COLLECTED AFTER THE JAIL BOND HAS BEEN PAID OFF IN 20 YEARS** this simply provides for the future. There are taxes to pave our roads, fund our schools, hospitals, and fire departments. This is the **ONLY** tax that will provide for your sheriff's office.

Many people have asked me during my tenure as your sheriff what they can do to help me , **THIS IS THE TIME FOR YOUR HELP.** Please do not let anyone tell you that your taxes are about to go up, this is simply **NOT TRUE.** I will be setting up some community meetings throughout the county in the coming weeks to answer any questions the public might have concerning this amendment. Please check the local newspapers and the sheriff's office website at [www.halecoso.com](http://www.halecoso.com) for dates and times of the meetings. Again I am asking for your support on August 9th.....**VOTE YES !!!**

Sheriff Kenneth W. Ellis