

Kansas City Star Endorses Johnson County Sheriff Frank Denning

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Sheriff jobs require experience, solid administrative skills

Primaries for sheriff in the area's two largest counties will be held Aug. 5.

The incumbent is the best choice in the Johnson County Republican election, while an experienced administrator deserves the nod in the Democratic race for an open post in Jackson County.

JOHNSON COUNTY

Frank Denning has been a stable force as sheriff the last four years.

He has a good working relationship with many law enforcement officials in the county's cities.

In leading efforts to expand the county jail, Denning has looked out for the taxpayers' best interests as he tries to reduce or eliminate the number of prisoners farmed out to other jails.

He also worked hard to improve state DNA laws, making it simpler for law enforcement officials to accurately connect suspects to crimes.

His opponent in the GOP primary, Ken Smith, espouses some disturbingly outdated ideas, especially when he says, "Chain gangs will be introduced to Johnson County" if he's elected.

That kind of thinking doesn't bode well for such a progressive county.

Denning deserves re-election; no Democrat is on the November ballot.