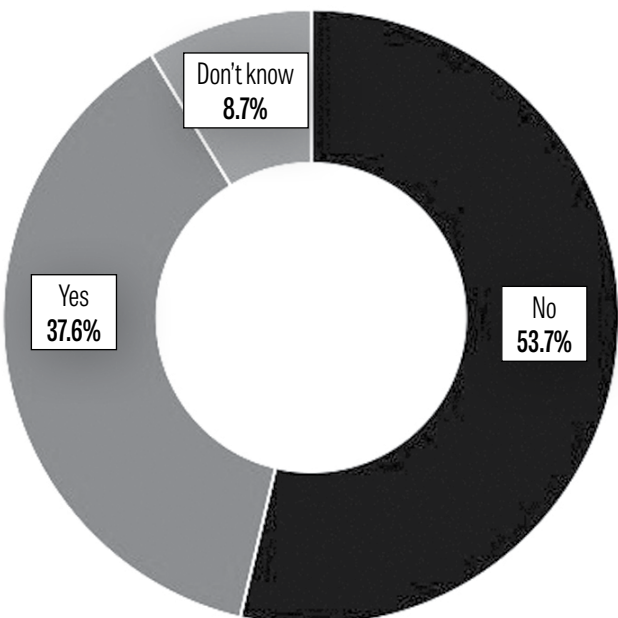


ONLINE POLL:

Kentucky State University and Ale-8-One released PawPaw Ale-8 recently. Do you plan on trying it?



This poll reflects the opinions of 150 respondents. Visit [www.state-journal.com](http://www.state-journal.com) to take part in today's poll.

EDITORIAL

# Depp a great choice to succeed Quire as sheriff

When a 28-year veteran in law enforcement recommends someone to fill his shoes, you listen. That is exactly what Judge-Executive Michael Mueller did when former Franklin County Sheriff Chris Quire requested that he appoint FCSO Chief Deputy Dwayne Depp to serve the remainder of his term after announcing his retirement late last month.

Quire called his former second-in-command more than capable, saying, “there is no other individual that can carry on the thoughts and values we have practiced over the past several years.”

Depp, who began his law enforcement career in 1991, became the first African American to serve as Franklin County sheriff when he was sworn in on Aug. 1.

Though he downplayed the significance of the accomplishment saying there is no emphasis on any racial issue, but rather “good policing and treating all people with the same respect.”

Though he is originally from Glasgow, Depp has several local connections. After graduating from the police academy, Depp’s first posting with the Kentucky State Police was in Frankfort. He also earned his degree in criminal justice — something he started while at Murray State University when the state police came calling — from Kentucky State University following his KSP career.

Depp, who will fulfill the 16 months remaining on his predecessor’s term, said Quire prepared him well for the position, that the two share the similar values as it relates to law enforcement and it is business as usual at the sheriff’s office.

“I want the citizens to know we have a great staff, capable and compassionate,” the 56-year-old sheriff told The State Journal.

“We all want the best for the community and will offer our best, help others as we can, partner with the community to make Franklin County a good, solid place to raise a family, a place where they can feel safe and comfortable.”

Like Mueller, we too believe that Depp has a proven track record in law enforcement and a deep commitment to Franklin County. We applaud Mueller and Quire for leaving the sheriff’s office in capable hands and have faith that Depp will do an outstanding job in his new post.

# Where are we at the six-month mark?

If you are like I am, you have been trying to figure out what exactly we have been experiencing over the past six months. Here’s what I see.

**Controlling the narrative.** One of the Trump administration’s primary goals is to control the narrative. They want there to be a dramatic story every day in which Trump is the dominant player. If nothing is really occurring, they will make something happen. Trump will use Truth Social to create a controversy that will dominate the day’s news cycle. Just watch Fox News at the top of every hour and see what the controversy du jour is. Steve Bannon coined the phrase “flood the zone.” “Flooding the zone” is how they are controlling the narrative.

**Dominating the media.** If you’re going to control the narrative, you’ve got to have your very own personal Pravda, a propaganda arm. Trump’s Truth Social serves as part of Pravda. More important is Fox News, the free propaganda arm of the Trump/GOP administration. When CBS aired the 60 Minutes interview that like all interviews was edited, he didn’t like it, so he sued the parent company, Paramount, which turned around and paid him \$16 million. When Steven Colbert called that a bribe, he was fired. When the Wall Street Journal produced a picture Trump had drawn and sent to Jeffrey Epstein, he sued the parent company for \$10 billion. When he is asked an uncomfortable question, his go-to response is, “you are an evil person to ask a question like that.”

**Punching down.** Trump only punches people and countries that are less powerful. Trump does not punch up. That explains his fealty to Vladimir Putin, as well as his bullying of Volodymyr Zelensky. It explains his letting in white immigrants from South Africa and deporting waitresses and tomato pickers from the fields of California. It explains his taking money away from PBS and foreign aid from poor countries. It explains his cozying up to Elon Musk and his going after Joe Biden’s “cognitive decline.” It explains his going after funding for universities. It explains his tax and spend bill that takes money

away from SNAP and Medicaid. He always punches down.

**Projecting strength.** In all things, project strength. Control the camera. Insult reporters. The most dramatic example of this occurred in Butler, Pennsylvania, during the campaign. With raised fist, he said “fight, fight, fight.” He always wears a dark blue suit with a red or gold (long) tie. He loves to sit behind the Resolute Desk. He surrounds himself with gold and glitter in the Oval Office and Mar-a-Lago. He makes a ceremony out of signing every executive order and holding up the document so the camera can record his bold actions.

**Viewing the law as a tool to control others.** For Trump, the law is made to be broken. His minions (Emil Bove comes to mind) says “F\*\*\* the court” when a court order is not to his liking. When a plane is in the air with an immigrant you want to deport and the court orders you to turn the plane around, simply look the other way. When she rules against him, Trump calls Justice Amy Coney Barrett “weak.” When she rules his way, he says “I have great respect for her, I always have, and her decision was brilliantly written today.” When District Judge James Boasberg blocked deportation of immigrants to El Salvador, Trump called for Boasberg’s impeachment. In April, Trump called judges who had ruled against him “communist, radical-left judges.”

**Pretending to be a Christian.** Part of the Trump playbook is to appeal to those who have built their lives around white nationalist Christianity. He pretends to be a Christian despite never going to church and making a mockery out of the Sermon on the Mount. Selling Trump Bibles for \$59.99 is the essence of his faith. When confronted by Bishop Mariann Budde of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C., over how he treats the “least of these,” urging him to “have mercy,” he called

Bishop Budde a “Radical Left hard line Trump hater,” and demanded that she and her church “owe the public an apology.”

**Blaming only and never taking responsibility.** Preferably blame Joe Biden. If that’s not appropriate, go with Barack Obama. If possible, blame the media. As a default, blame the “woke, communist, Democrats.” But never, ever, take responsibility for anything.

**Caring for himself rather than the least of these.** Cut Medicaid? Reduce money for SNAP? Fire federal workers by email? End foreign aid? Close USAID. Raise taxes for the lowest 10% while cutting taxes for the wealthy?

**Creating symbols of power.** Create Alligator Alcatraz. Reopen California’s Alcatraz. Rename the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America. Accept the \$400 million plane from Qatar. Gilding the Oval Office. Appointing Cabinet officials based upon how they look on Fox TV.

**Resembling Andy Rooney.** Garrison Keillor said it best when he recently wrote: “The country’s in the hands of a 79-year-old with serious memory issues who seems more interested in redecorating the White House than in foreign policy, who is perversely enraged by diversity and by universities as well as courtesy and insurgency, irritated by vaccines, fluoridation, windmills, civil rights, the progressive income tax, consumer protection, science and math, fact-based journalism, who intends to take us back to the McKinley administration and retreat from the larger world.”

**We don’t have a president as much as we have a reality TV star.** I have always looked up to the presidency as best filled by someone who has vision for a bright future, who heals the nation’s wounds after a disaster, who brings wisdom to foreign policy decisions, and who sets a moral example.

It is clear we do not have that kind of president. Instead, we have a reality tv star.

*Ernie Lewis, of Frankfort, is a retired attorney. He can be reached at [ernie.lewis@gmail.com](mailto:ernie.lewis@gmail.com).*

## LETTER

### ‘WE ARE PATRIOTS SUPPORTING OUR COUNTRY’

Dear editor,

These are not normal times, not at all.

Mark Twain said “Patriotism is supporting your country all the time and your government when it deserves it.”

An increasing number of citizens who love this country do not feel the current administration deserves our support. Millions of citizens have taken to the streets in peaceful protest — to preserve and protect our democracy. The recent “No Kings” rally was one of the biggest single-day protests in U.S. history.

This letter is a simple thank you to the patriots who have stepped up in recent months to protest actions by the

Trump administration — actions that the polls suggest most Americans do not support; actions that are cruel and often incompetent; actions that are causing chaos — and fear in our everyday lives.

For all those people who have contacted their congressional representatives to express concern regarding actions by the Trump administration, thank you. To those who have used social media or written a letter to a newspaper to express concern, thank you. And to all those who have attended town halls, rallies or marched in resistance to the Trump administration, thank you.

We are patriots supporting our country.

Mary Lynn Collins  
Frankfort

### SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*The State Journal encourages readers to submit letters to the editor. Letters should be the original work of the author, no form letters, and be fewer than 400 words. To submit a letter email letters@state-journal.com. Please provide an address and phone number.*

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