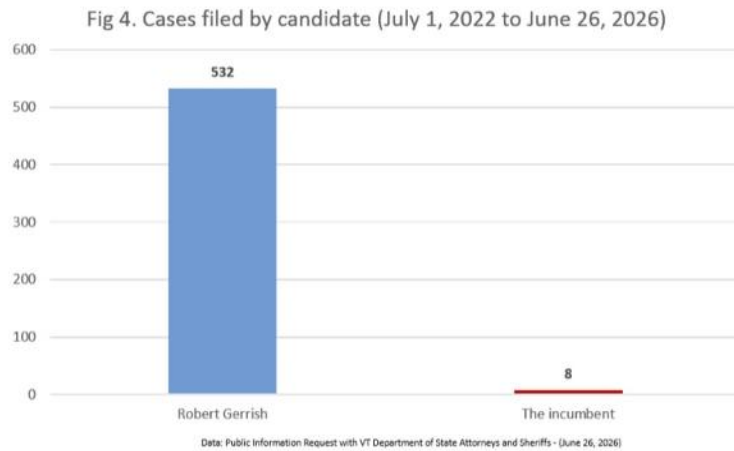


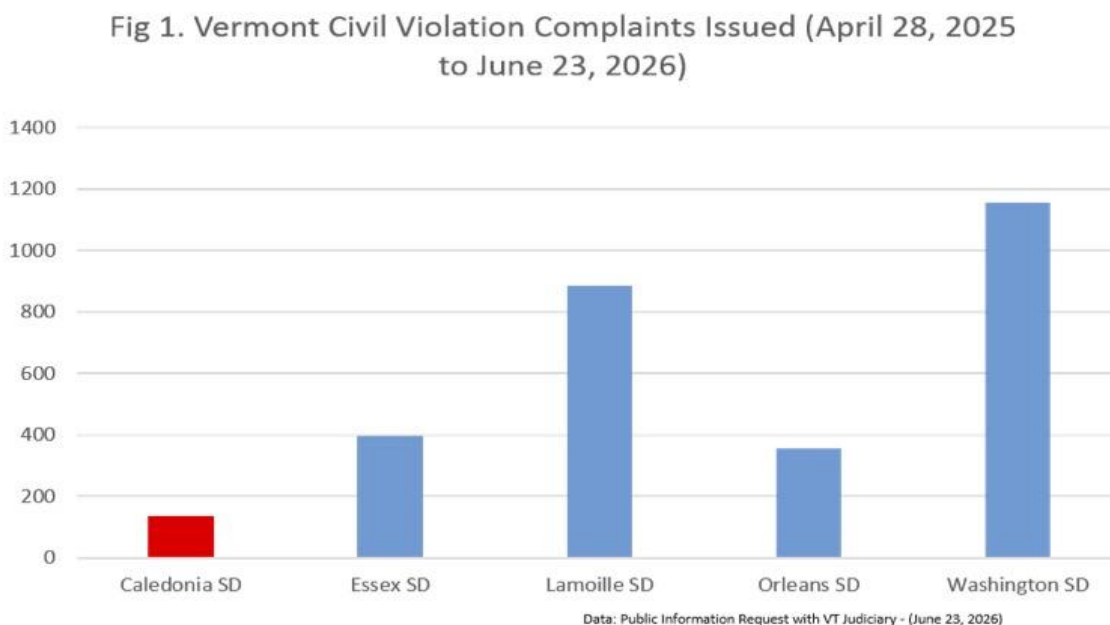


Experience Matters

Policing isn't finance, human resources or information technology. You can hire a specialist to provide those services to a police agency. One thing that is not negotiable for the police executive: experience. An agency without an experienced chief executive officer is not going to be as successful as it could be compared to the same organization guided by somebody with the skills to perform the main functions of the job. This is never the fault of the employees, who do the best they can. This post should not be construed as a criticism of the deputies of the sheriff's department as it is a discussion of leadership.

On the campaign trail, I recall people telling me they don't understand what the sheriff's office does here in Caledonia County. They don't see results or hear much about what they do. They should recognize it as a functional police agency with a special mission. Reading the newspaper and reading up on the activities of surrounding agencies, I don't think that confusion is present everywhere. I think it would be valuable to talk about what neighboring counties with experienced leadership have been able to accomplish in terms of highway and community safety. Through a series of public records requests, I obtained data on activity of our sheriff's department vs. four neighboring agencies. The results are illuminating.

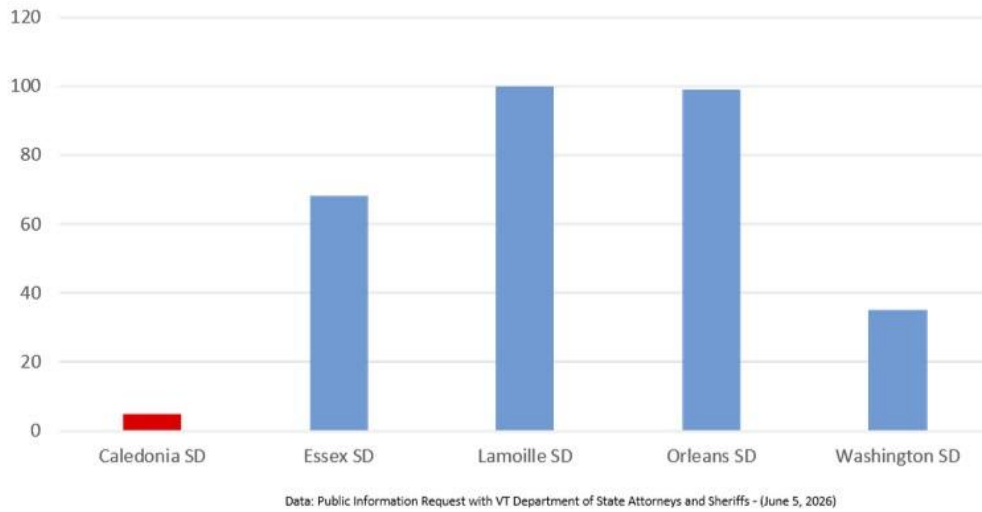
Even in traffic enforcement, our county is far less active (Vermont Civil Violation Complaints or "traffic tickets" issued are the metric here) than the surrounding areas, with Caledonia at less than half of the violations enforced compared to the next closest county (please see the attached figure 1).



One concern I have heard at selectboard meetings or listening to community members with regards to traffic enforcement is that many of the issues (speeding, reckless driving, etc) are happening when the sheriff's patrols are not occurring. There is a reason most departments don't solely maintain bankers' hours. If elected, I'd like to determine when the incidents are occurring in each contracted area and optimize patrols to try to deter these issues as best I could.

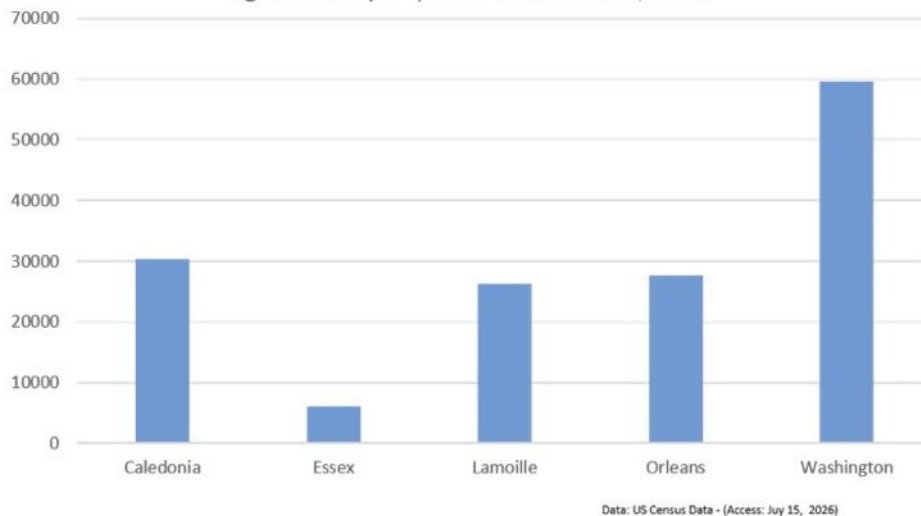
However, law enforcement is far more than tickets written. Criminal enforcement activity is key. Now the sheriff's department is not the primary law enforcement agency like the state police or town agencies. But, it's important to see what neighboring agencies have accomplished to see what we could do here. When an agency arrests a violator on a case it investigated, requests a search warrant, deals with a juvenile in need of supervision or takes other enforcement activity, these cases are generally sent to the county state attorney. A review of our sheriff's department's case submissions shows that in the one year period since April 28, 2025, the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department underperforms compared to neighboring agencies (please see Figure 2).

Fig 2. Casework Filed with State's Attorneys Offices (April 28, 2025 to April 28, 2026)



What causes this? My first thought would be population (please see Figure 3).

Fig 3. County Population Estimates, 2025



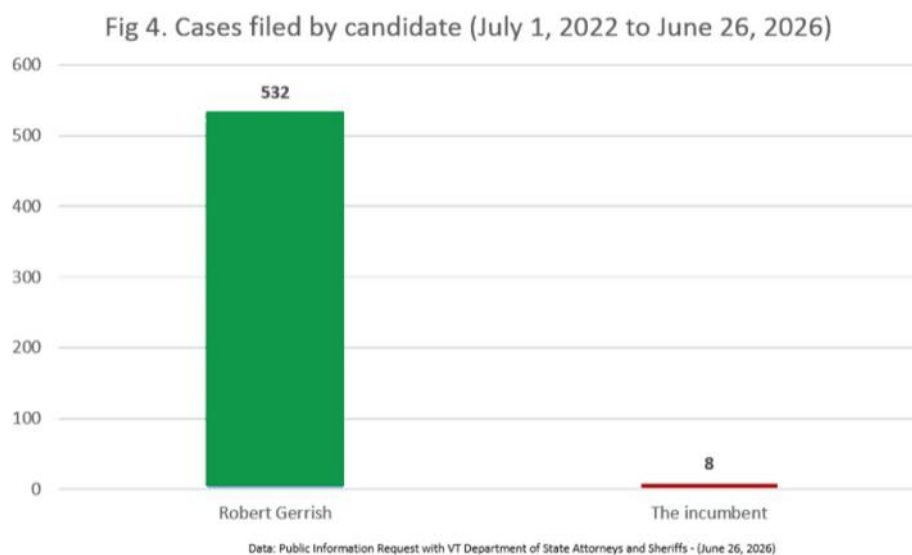
However, agencies covering much smaller populated areas are far more active at enforcing the law. I would argue that a large part of this is experience and leadership. These other agencies are run by very skilled and experienced

professionals. That experience shows. They regularly investigate the most serious felony cases, whereas our county sheriff's department has not had a felony case since 2022 (see Table 1).

Table 1. Most Recent Felony Case Filed (As of 6/5/26)	Date
Caledonia SD	2022
Essex SD	27-Mar-26
Lamoille SD	10-Dec-25
Orleans SD	16-Dec-25
Washington SD	28-Jan-26

This is not a criticism of the staff. This is an issue of leadership and the leader's experience and mindset.

You deserve a sheriff with a knowledge of criminal law and enforcement. Through the same public information request, I have prepared a figure summarizing information on casework sent to the states attorneys since July 2022 (Figure 4).



I would argue the difference between myself and my opponent is striking. Recent experience in the primary job function of an agency is key.

You have a choice on August 11th. I respectfully ask that you consider experience, current knowledge and competency when making your decision.

If you see my name on your ballot for sheriff, I respectfully ask for your vote. If my name is not on your ballot, I please ask that you write me in for the office of sheriff.

Thank you.

Robert Gerrish

GerrishForSheriff.com