

**331.651 Office of county sheriff.**

1. The office of sheriff is an elective office. However, if a vacancy occurs in the office, the first deputy shall assume the office after qualifying as provided in [this section](#). The first deputy shall hold the office until a successor is appointed or elected to the unexpired term as provided in [chapter 69](#). If a sheriff is suspended from office, the district court may appoint a sheriff until a temporary appointment is made by the board as provided in [section 66.19](#).

2. A person elected or appointed sheriff shall meet all the following qualifications:

a. Have no felony convictions.

b. Be age twenty-one or over at the time of assuming the office of sheriff.

c. Be a certified peace officer recognized by the Iowa law enforcement academy council under [chapter 80B](#) or complete the basic training course provided at the Iowa law enforcement academy's central training facility or a location other than the central training facility within one year of taking office. A person shall be deemed to have completed the basic training course if the person meets all course requirements except the physical training requirements.

3. A person elected or appointed to the office of sheriff shall qualify by taking the oath of office as provided in [section 63.10](#) and give bond as provided in [section 64.8](#).

4. The term of office of the sheriff is four years.

[C51, §96, 239; R60, §224, 473; C73, §589; C97, S13, §1072; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §520; C46, §39.17; C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §39.17, 337.20; S81, §331.651; [81 Acts, ch 117, §650](#)]

[94 Acts, ch 1010, §1](#); [2002 Acts, ch 1134, §95, 115](#); [2010 Acts, ch 1061, §138](#)

Referred to in [§97B.49C, 97B.49G](#)