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Letter to the Editor of The Evansville Courier and Press and David Wedding

Sheriff Wedding,

Your decision to change political parties is your decision.

It's your rationale I question. You served as Deputy Sheriff eight years under Democrat Brad Ellsworth and are in your sixth year as a Democratic Sheriff.

Nationally, we are being pulled apart. Broad stroke statements from both parties continue to create an environment of divisiveness. Instead of conversations that promote understanding, citizens and events are being labeled, categorized. We are being pushed into "either-or"- "black or white",-"with me or against me" categories, while people's belief systems are complex and come in many shades of grey. Not all police, blacks, browns, whites, Republicans, Democrats, Independents are defined by one assigned title. Even Christians, Jews and other religions aren't the same around the world. And yet, broad statements cast individuals into "labels" not defining complex individuals with personal beliefs. Labels provoke strong emotional responses-good, bad, fear, love, hatred. Divisiveness fragments relationships between friends, families and neighbors already stressed by social distancing.

I am a Democrat and not even one of your definitions represent my belief system. I am not a wild-eyed leftist radical. I have voted for both parties dependent on the qualifications of the candidates. I proudly fly the American flag. I am a church going Christian. I believe in peaceful protests, not riots. I support the police and military.

Our democracy is precious. It can't be carved up by simply red or blue or any other label. We, as common humanity, can't allow that. We, as free Americans, can't accept that.

Barbara Borries