



NACOLE Candidate Election Questionnaire

Name: Edward W. Harness, JD, CPO, CIG

Position Sought: NACOLE Board Member

Geographic Location: Louisville, Kentucky

Current Employment: Inspector General, Louisville Metro Office of Inspector General

1. How long have you been involved with NACOLE, and how did you initially become involved?

I have been involved with NACOLE for several years through my work in civilian law enforcement oversight and through NACOLE's professional and conference activities. My involvement grew from a commitment to learn from other oversight professionals, share Louisville's experience, and help advance effective, independent, and credible civilian oversight.

2. Which NACOLE Committees have you served on? Have you had other involvement in NACOLE as a volunteer?

My NACOLE involvement has included committee and volunteer service supporting the association's professional mission and conference activities, including work connected to the 2026 annual conference in Louisville. I have also contributed to conference planning, fundraising, and development of presentations addressing Louisville's police-reform and civilian-oversight experience.

3. Please share highlights of your background/experience in law enforcement oversight.

As Inspector General for Louisville Metro, I lead an independent civilian oversight office responsible for reviewing the policies, practices, investigations, and operations of the Louisville Metro Police Department. My work includes civilian complaints, officer-involved-shooting reviews, policy and systems investigations, data analysis, public recommendations, records access, and coordination with the Civilian Review and Accountability Board. I have helped build practical oversight procedures, evidence-preservation and information-request processes, recommendation tracking, and an Ombudsman appeal function. This work requires balancing independence with cooperation, protecting due-process rights, and translating complex evidence into

4. Why do you want to serve on NACOLE's Board? What makes NACOLE's mission important to you?

I want to serve on NACOLE's Board because NACOLE is essential to strengthening the field of civilian oversight and to helping communities build oversight institutions that are independent, professional, transparent, and effective. Louisville's experience has reinforced for me that creating an oversight structure is only the beginning; the structure must have meaningful access, reliable information, institutional support, and enough authority to turn findings into measurable reform. NACOLE's mission matters because public trust depends on policing that is lawful, fair, effective, and accountable, and because oversight must be able to speak honestly when reform is incomplete or contested. I would bring a local-government perspective shaped by the practical realities of implementing reform while preserving the independence of civilian oversight.

5. What skills/qualities do you expect to contribute as a Board member?

I would contribute sound judgment, independence, legal and policy analysis, investigative experience, and the ability to work constructively across institutions without compromising oversight's core responsibilities. I also bring experience in organizational development, public communication, data-informed review, records and information-access systems, and the development of practical policies and procedures. I value candor, fairness, dignity, cultural humility, and measurable results. As a Board member, I would listen carefully, respect differing perspectives, and help NACOLE connect national standards and research to the day-to-day realities faced by oversight agencies and the communities they serve.

6. What goals do you have for your service on the NACOLE Board, what would you most like to accomplish as a Board member?

I want NACOLE to build the internal capacity to influence the future of policing. Training revenue, conference fees, and membership dues alone cannot fund the staff, research, and technical expertise that requires. We cannot be afraid to accept corporate dollars or build strategic relationships with companies such as Axon. We can maintain our independence through transparent agreements that give funders no control over our standards, research, positions, or decisions. NACOLE has a unique position in police oversight: we can bring the civilian perspective directly to the companies shaping policing tools while strengthening the support we provide to oversight agencies nationwide. I want us to use that position and grow our influence.