

# Report: Midland County Sheriff Jerry Nielsen retires after 40 years in law enforcement



By [Brad Devereaux | bdeverea@mlive.com](#)

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**MIDLAND, MI** — Midland County Sheriff Jerry Nielsen, who has served in the position for eight years, is retiring to end his 40-year career in law enforcement, the [Midland Daily News reports](#).

→ Sheriff-elect Scott Stephenson will take over the office on Jan. 1.

Nielsen talked about his time as sheriff and throughout his career in the [report](#).

He said building and filling a new jail was one of his accomplishments as sheriff and noted several tragedies and memorable cases, including a cold case from more than three decades ago that was solved during his time as sheriff.

Nielsen said another goal of his was to be open with the media, something he demonstrated in November during a [press conference](#) to announce the discovery of the body of [Leigh Swanson](#), a woman reported missing from Saginaw Township.

Nielsen credits his wife, Margo, and the couple's sons for being supportive throughout his law enforcement career.



Jerry Nielsen