



GEORGIA FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

P.O. BOX 88 POWDER

SPRINGS, GEORGIA 30127

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Stewart Bragg
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Mr. Bragg,

The Voice of Law Enforcement Professionals: The Fraternal Order of Police is the world's largest organization of sworn law enforcement officers, with more than 2,100 local lodges and over 356,000 members. We are the voice of those who dedicate their lives to protecting and serving our communities. We are committed to improving the working conditions of law enforcement officers and the safety of those we serve through education, legislation, information, community involvement, and employee representation. No one knows the dangers and the difficulties faced by today's police officers better than another officer, and no one knows police officers better than the FOP.

Founded in 1915, we are still "Building on a Proud Tradition."

The Georgia Fraternal Order of Police is made up of local Lodges and members spread out around the State of Georgia.

Each election cycle, The Georgia FOP seeks to endorse candidates whose priorities align with ours. The first step in this process is a questionnaire that is presented to the candidates who are seeking office in statewide races. The returned questionnaires will be posted for the FOP membership's review and consideration. Ballots will then be mailed to the membership. Once the ballots are returned and tallied, the Candidate receiving the majority of the votes will receive the endorsement of the FOP.



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I have attached the questionnaire for Mr. Jones consideration. The questionnaire, once completed, and be returned via email to captcall@fop.net. I ask the questionnaire to be returned no later than July 25, 2022.

Sincerely,

Michael Callahan

Michael Callahan
Georgia State Lodge
Fraternal Order of Police
captcall@hotmail.com
229-357-0564

To earn the endorsement of our members, we expect candidates to share our values and articulate how they would use their position to enact laws that protect and stop laws that erode the rights and quality of life of Law Enforcement Officers. Your responses to the following questions will help us determine where our priorities align.

1. In your view, what is the biggest Public Safety challenge facing our State and what would be your administration's plans to address these issues?

As Lieutenant Governor, I will prioritize addressing the number one public safety challenge facing our state - the lack of support for our Law Enforcement Officers. In many instances, Law Enforcement Agencies throughout the state are underfunded and understaffed. Departments lack the resources necessary to keep families safe. The morale of officers has diminished due to a lack of support from public officials and dangerous anti-police rhetoric. We need elected officials who are willing to stand up, share the positive impact our law enforcement makes each and every day, and be unapologetic about it. Departments need to be backed with the necessary means to address on going public safety threats such as the fentanyl crisis and mental health issues. I will always stand behind those that protect our families, and fight against dangerous catch and release policies that put repeat offenders back on our streets.

2. What if any reforms would you make to State Law Enforcement as a whole?

Funding for local law enforcement officers must be increased so that they have the resources they need to protect Georgia communities. Giving departments whatever tools they need to be successful is paramount.

3. Across the State of Georgia, Law Enforcement Agencies have seen their sworn ranks shrink over the years due to budget cuts as well as an overall lack of interest in our profession largely due to the anti-police movement and negative media coverage. What would your administration do to help recruit, train, and retain qualified Law Enforcement Officers?

Those who protect Georgia families should be incentivized to continue doing so. As Lieutenant Governor, I will work to enhance retirement benefits for law enforcement to both grow and retain a stable workforce of Law Enforcement officers.

4. What actions would you support to increase security in Georgia Public Schools to protect our children and prevent the violence we have seen at schools around our Country? Would you support funding to place P.O.S.T. certified School Resource Officers in all Georgia Public Schools?

Yes. We should look at increase funding for resource officers to ensure our students and teachers are protected at every possible turn.

5. Under the doctrine of qualified immunity, governmental officials performing discretionary functions, such as a Law Enforcement Officer making an arrest, are immune from civil suit unless a plaintiff can show the official violated clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person or officer would have known. It is important to emphasize that this immunity is not automatic and does not protect anyone who engages in a criminal act. It exists only for civil suits and is only available if granted by the Court. Qualified immunity is critical to Law Enforcement. Do you support the existing qualified immunity doctrine?

Yes.

6. What are your thoughts regarding punishment for any individual who knowingly and/or intentionally harms or kills a POST certified Law Enforcement Officer in the State of Georgia?

Any individual who knowingly and /or intentionally harms or kills a POST certified Law Enforcement Officer in the State of Georgia should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

7. The Georgia Department of Corrections has traditionally been severely understaffed, and the funding appropriated by the Legislature for the Department has not been utilized to increase pay and benefits for the front-line Correctional Officers. These staff shortages place Correctional Officers and the communities in extreme danger as demonstrated by a recent situation where inmates took control of a prison until it was recaptured by surrounding Law Enforcement. What would your Administration do to increase hiring, training, and retention of State Correctional Officers?

As with all Law Enforcement Officers, I will work to enhance retirement benefits, resources, and support for Georgia Department of Corrections to grow and retain a stable workforce of Correctional Enforcement officers.

8. Would you support legislation to increase POAB member benefits to all active and retired LE officers in Georgia?

Yes

9. Retired State Law Enforcement Officers have only received a small Cost of Living Adjustment to their retirement in the last fifteen years. Many of these Officers dedicated over thirty years of their lives to serving and protecting the citizens of the State of Georgia. With the increase in the cost of everyday expenses, many of these heroes find it difficult to meet their financial obligations with the current retirement pay. Do you support annual funding for a yearly cost of living adjustment to the retirement pensions for retired State Law Enforcement Officers?

Yes

10. Do you support pay parity for all State Law Enforcement Officers?

Yes

11. Do you support the legalization of marijuana?

I do not support the legalization of marijuana for recreational use.

12. Would you be open to appointing a member of the Georgia Fraternal of Police to the Peace Officer's Standards and Training Council and/or other Law Enforcement related boards?

Yes

13. How would you interact with Georgia Law Enforcement?

No one has a better understanding of the public safety challenges our state faces or what steps are necessary to protect Georgia families than those that serve and protect our communities. As Lieutenant Governor I will have frequent discussions and reoccurring meetings with Law Enforcement Officers to understand what is needed to address the changing dynamics of crime and public safety. Additionally, my administration will maintain an open door

policy for all Law Enforcement Officers from across the state.

14. What qualifies you as the best candidate for this position?

As a State Senator I have worked with local departments to provide resources to ensure laws are upheld. As a husband and father I am personally invested in the safety of Georgia families. As Lieutenant Governor I will work with lawmakers and law enforcement agencies on legislation that supports and incentivizes the recruitment, retainment, and advancement of our officers across the state. Additionally, I will stand against dangerous catch and release policies that put criminals back on our streets. Penalties for sex traffickers, gang members and repeat offenders must be strengthened. I will work to ensure that the safety of our communities and the support of our Law Enforcement Officers will never be jeopardized by the political ambitions of the anti-police movement.