



GEORGIA FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

P.O. BOX 88 POWDER SPRINGS, GEORGIA 30127
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Senator Tyler Harper
Harper for Georgia
Candidate for Agriculture Commissioner
th@tylerhaperga.com

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 your 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 28, 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.

The biggest challenge to our Public Safety community in Georgia is lack of funding, resources, respect, and overall support for our heroes in the law enforcement and public safety community. Over the past few years in the General Assembly, I have been proud to help lead efforts and work with my colleagues to make significant investments in our law enforcement and public safety community, but unfortunately we have left-wing politicians in some of our larger cities who have undermined those efforts. District Attorneys who refuse to prosecute violent and repeat offenders which has undercut the good work our law enforcement and public safety community is doing, even when you each put your lives on the line every day. At the state level, we need to continue to give our heroes every resource they need to be successful, hold liberal politicians and DA's accountable, and work to ensure our law enforcement and public safety community have the respect they deserve and support they have earned.

2. What is your vision for the Department of Agriculture's interaction with Law Enforcement?

I want the Department of Agriculture to be hands down the most professional, collaborative, and coordinated agency in the state for our law enforcement agencies to work with. The safety and security of our farmers, producers and consumers across the state is priority number one—whether that is through food safety or public safety, we will work hand in hand with local and state law enforcement, ensure they have the most up to date and relevant information they need, and partner with them to strengthen the public safety and wellbeing of communities across the state. There are many ways that we can partner together, both with state & local law enforcement, to ensure we provide a safe state to live, work, worship, & raise a family. I look forward to continuing the partnerships I have built with the law enforcement and public safety community over the years in the Georgia State Senate and building on those relationships and partnerships in a new role as the next Commissioner of Agriculture to accomplish the goals we each have in moving our state forward.

3. Within your authority, if elected, as Commissioner do you plan on restart the Law Enforcement Division within the Department.

It's definitely something we're open to doing and that we will strongly consider as an effective way that we can partner and collaborate together. We want to do a holistic due diligence evaluation upon taking office to gauge the effectiveness of a more robust Law Enforcement Division, ensure that it would be done in a way that is beneficial to our industry at large, as well as the general public and taxpayers, and that if implemented, such division would be a value add and work seamlessly and collaboratively with our other law enforcement agencies across the state. We believe, if done correctly, a Law Enforcement Division within the Department of Agriculture would be a tremendous asset to both state and local law enforcement across the state in our joint efforts to address the concerns of the public and ensure we have a safe state for our #1 industry, agriculture, to thrive & be successful. At the same time, agriculture is national security & part of our nation's national security infrastructure, so it is important to ensure that food safety, food security, and the food supply chain are all kept at the forefront of our work each and every day, and we have to work to protect our efforts in providing the food, fiber, and shelter not only for our citizens in our state, but to those across the nation that depend in Georgia's agriculture industry.

4. What qualifies you as the best candidate for the Commissioner of Agriculture.

As a 7th generation South Georgia farmer with a peanut, cotton, timber, & beef cattle operation and still plowing the same piece of dirt that's been in my family for over 125 years, I know firsthand the challenges and opportunities facing our state's number one industry. I see and understand the issues that face farmers, producers, consumers, agribusinesses, and families everyday, because I see those issues in my farming operation and when I go to the grocery store, but more importantly I know how we can work together to solve those problems and provide opportunities for agriculture and our state to be successful. As a UGA College of Agriculture & ABAC alum, current Chair of the Southern Legislative Conference's Agriculture & Rural Development Committee, and State Senator serving in leadership roles on the Natural Resources, Public Safety, and Agriculture Committees since 2013, I have the experience, dedication, and record of results to serve every day as our state's next Agriculture Commissioner. Simply put, agriculture is who I am, what I am, and what I'm about. With my background, we will be able to go to work on day one without any on the job training, putting my experience to work for farmers, producers, consumers, agribusinesses, and families all across the state to help each of them be successful.

5. Why should the Members of the Georgia Fraternal Order of Police support your candidacy?

As a proud member of the Georgia Fraternal Order of Police, past Chairman and current Vice-Chairman of the Georgia State Senate Public Safety Committee, and as an individual who has a deep passion for agriculture as well as the law enforcement and public safety community, I have the background, experience, and record of results to fight for our agriculture community as well as continue my work with and for the law

enforcement and public safety community. In my work in the Georgia State Senate, I have championed issues that are important to the Georgia Fraternal Order of Police and been a tireless advocate for causes that impact you in your work each and every day. From being the lead sponsor of the Back the Badge Act that increased penalties on those who commit crimes against those in the law enforcement and public safety community, to working hand in hand with Governor Deal, Governor Kemp, and others to ensure we secured funding needed for pay raises and increased resources for our law enforcement officers, to fighting for and finding a way to increase the benefit of the POAB that many of you are members of, just to name a few, I believe I have the track record of consistently delivering for our law enforcement and public safety communities when it matters most. I appreciate and value the partnership we have had to accomplish these goals, and I want to put that same passion, dedication, and experience to work as the next Agriculture Commissioner. I have always been a champion for public safety and for our law enforcement officers, who are heroes who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe. I will continue to do that—and always stand with them to ensure they have every resource they need to succeed as we work together to make Georgia the best place to live, work, worship, and raise a family.