



Georgia State Lodge
Fraternal Order of Police

2010 Candidate Questionnaire

Office of Attorney General

Please return by August 10, 2010

GAFOP Legislative Committee
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888-398-8308

Candidate Name
[Sam Olens](#)

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[Marietta, GA 30068](#)

Point of Contact
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Web Address
www.olensforag.com

Party Affiliation
Republican

Education
Emory University, J. D. Degree 1983;
The American University, School of International Service: Bachelor of Arts Degree 1978;
Master of Arts Degree 1980.

Political Experience **Chairman, Cobb County Board of Commissioners (2002 – 2010);**
District 3 Commissioner (1999- 2002).

Military Experience
None

Other:
Chairman of the Atlanta Regional Commission (Dec. 2004 – 2009)
Vice-Chair of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (2005 – 2010)
Member of Board: Georgia Dept. of Community Affairs

Board of Directors (Current or Past)
Association of County Commissioners of Georgia
Metro Atlanta Arts & Culture Coalition
Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority
Cobb-Marietta Coliseum & Exhibit Hall Authority
Cobb Board of Health
Cobb Community Services Board
Downtown Marietta Development Authority
NACo Transportation Steering Committee
United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta
Metro Atlanta YMCA
U.S. 10K Classic
WellStar Institute for Better Health
Congestion Mitigation Task Force (Chair)

Georgia Regional Transportation Authority's State and Regional Cabinet
East Cobb Civic Association, Inc., President
Cobb County Housing Authority
SafePath Children's Advocacy Center
Cobb County Police Athletic League
Georgia Indigent Defense Council
Center for Family Resources (Chair Capital Campaign)
Safe America Foundation
YMCA of Cobb County
Emory University Board of Visitors

The Fraternal Order of Police is the world's largest organization of sworn law enforcement officers, with more than 325,000 members in more than 2,100 lodges. 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.

The Fraternal Order of Police is a non-profit organization.

Please answer the following 10 questions. Create as much additional space as you need for your responses.

1-What do you consider the most important function of government?

In the Preamble of the United States Constitution, James Madison set forth the following five functions:

1. To establish justice
2. To insure domestic tranquility
3. To provide for the common defense
4. To promote the general welfare
5. To secure the blessings of liberty

It is difficult to isolate one particular function since the five functions have successfully worked in concert for 234 years. If I had to boil it down to the most important function, I would say “To protect and defend the life and liberty our citizenry.”

2-Across Georgia and the nation, insurance premiums continue to rise. Healthcare fraud contributes to this greatly, yet most agencies have limited resources and training to police it. Will your office establish any type of unit to help investigate this fraud?

Medicaid fraud continues to be a growing problem for the state. Constitutionally, the Georgia AG does have purview over this type of fraud and I will step up efforts to fight the abuse of the system. I will also work with the Insurance Commissioner’s office to help combat insurance fraud.

3-What is the role of the Georgia Attorney General?

The state Attorney General is a constitutional officer whose sworn duty is to uphold the U.S. and the State constitutions and maintain the office's independence.

The Attorney General is given his authority and obligations by the Georgia Constitution and the Official Code of Georgia. His duties include:

- Serving as the attorney and legal advisor for all state agencies, departments, authorities and the Governor.
- Providing opinions on legal questions concerning the State of Georgia or its agencies, which are binding on all state agencies and departments.
- Representing the State of Georgia in all capital felony appeals before the Supreme Court of Georgia.
- Representing the State of Georgia in all civil cases before any court.
- Representing the State of Georgia in all cases appearing before the Supreme Court of the United States.
- Prosecuting public corruption cases where criminal charges are filed against any person or business for illegal activity when dealing with the State of Georgia.
- Conducting special investigations into questionable activity concerning any state agency or department or a person or business that has done business with the State of Georgia.
- Initiating civil or criminal actions on behalf of the State of Georgia when requested to do so by the Governor.
- Preparing all contracts and agreements regarding any matter in which the State of Georgia is involved.

4-What changes will you make if elected?

I plan to work more closely with the legislature before bills are passed to make sure they are constitutionally sound and can stand up in a court of law. I also plan to strengthen the Ethics in Government Act and raise the bar on ethics reform.

I will take much more aggressive leadership in Georgia's legal battles including health care, water and immigration.

5-Do you support the death penalty?

Yes.

6-Do you believe the Georgia Attorney General should be involved in healthcare reform litigation?

Absolutely. The recently passed federal health care law is an unconstitutional attack on the 10th amendment's guarantee of state sovereignty. It places a "living tax" on Georgia citizens and I will continue the legal battle as AG.

7-How will your office interact with Georgia law enforcement?

It has been my pleasure to work with law enforcement in Cobb County as well as through UASI. I will have an open door policy and will provide support in whatever form I can, to include 1983 actions.

8-What do you see as the biggest challenge for Georgia law enforcement, and how can your office help?

In this tough economic environment, we must assure that law enforcement receives the necessary training and salary allocations to serve and protect the public. As Attorney General, I will use my bully pulpit to ensure that the needs of peace officers remain a top budget priority in our state government.

9-Do you support any type of racial profiling legislation?

No.

10-When HB 218 was passed in Washington giving active and retired police officers the right to carry concealed weapons throughout the United States, many states, including Georgia, had problems complying with this law. These problems were resolved by the previous Attorney General because of his open-door policy with the FOP. Will you continue to have this open-door policy and assist law enforcement with issues pertaining to Georgia law?

Absolutely. I will have an "open door" policy to all members of Georgia's law enforcement community.