



Georgia State Lodge
Fraternal Order of Police

2010 Candidate Questionnaire

Office of Governor

Please return by August 10, 2010

GAFOP Legislative Committee

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(888) 398-8308

Candidate Name - **Roy E. Barnes**

Address - **120 Anderson Street, Marietta, GA 30060**

Point of Contact – **Chris Carpenter, Campaign Manager**

Web Address – www.roy2010.com

Party Affiliation - **Democrat**

Education – **University of Georgia and University of Georgia School of Law**

Political Experience – **I served as a prosecutor in the Cobb County District Attorney's office. I then served eight terms in the State Senate and four terms in the State House before being elected to serve as Governor in 1998. After leaving office, I devoted six months to Atlanta Legal Aid before opening the Barnes Law Group with my daughter and son-in-law.**

Military Experience – **I served in the US Army both as an active duty and a reserve member for eight years. I was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain.**

Other:

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?

The most important functions of government are educating the next generation and protecting our citizens so that we can rebuild a solid foundation in Georgia – one that will support a better life, stronger communities, and a brighter future for our families.

2-Law enforcement officers are our country's front line in the fight against crime, and they perform a difficult and dangerous job with skill and dedication. But the nation's law enforcement officers constantly face extraordinary new challenges with limited resources. We understand the economic situation that Georgia and the rest of the nation is currently experiencing. What is your position on furloughing public safety officers and budget cuts from law enforcement agencies?

Times are certainly tough, but we must set priorities as a state to educate our children and protect our people. We cannot afford to hinder public education or endanger our families and communities, that's why I'm opposed to furloughing teachers, law enforcement officers, crime lab personnel and prison guards.

3- What is your position on the Employer-Employee Cooperation Act (H.R. 413) that provides basic collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by states or their political subdivisions? This bill, along with the FOP, does not support any legislation that allows strikes or work slowdowns.

Georgia is a right to work state, and I'm not in favor of any changes to state law.

4-Currently State Boards are composed of only law enforcement administrators. Would you appoint a FOP member to state boards such as the Peace Officers Standards and Training Council and the Peace Officers Annuity and Benefit board?

Yes.

5-Please explain your overall vision for Georgia law enforcement if you are elected as well as the changes or improvements you would make.

Throughout my career, I've remained tough on crime. As governor, I cracked down on violent criminals to keep Georgians safe; and under my watch, our crime rate went down. When I'm elected, I'll restore full funding to Georgia work camps, prisons, crime labs and other law enforcement functions – ensuring our law enforcement has the resources they desperately need. It will take all of us working together to make Georgia work again, and with the support of our local law enforcement, I know we can do it.

6- Do you support the death penalty?

Yes.

7- The FOP plans to introduce a bill for FOP license plates. Part of the proceeds would go to a tax-deductible fund for the survivors of officers killed in the line of duty for scholarships and benefits. Would you support this legislation?

Yes.

8 - In 2006 there was a House Study Committee for salary and benefits for Georgia's state officers. This committee was chaired by Rep. Burke Day. It was

determined that we are losing DNR rangers, GBI agents, correctional officers, state troopers and parole officers to higher-paid agencies and wasting taxpayer money by training and replacing these officers. The next budget corrected the problems affecting state troopers. The other agencies were never funded to come into compliance with the study and relieve this problem. If elected, how would you solve this problem?

As governor, adequately funding law enforcement will be one of my top priorities, and I'll always work to keep our best in brightest in public service. Georgia's law enforcement works tirelessly to preserve Georgia's values, strengthen our communities, and protect our citizens. Therefore, I'll make sure they have the resources they need to do their job; and after their public service tenure is complete, I'll make sure the state benefits they've earned are waiting on them in full.

9 - What is your stance on illegal immigration in Georgia and the United States, and what are your ideas on addressing the issue?

When the federal government fails to protect our nation's borders, states like Georgia are forced to deal with the ramifications of illegal immigration. We are a nation of laws. All people – including employers who hire illegal immigrants – should be subject to these laws, and the law must be obeyed.

Further, I'm in favor of allowing local law enforcement officers to make arrests for federal crimes – including immigration violations.

10 - What makes you the best candidate for this office?

Georgia is falling behind. Over the past several years, the other team has given us ethics violations, teacher furloughs, tax breaks to special interests and record homes foreclosures. But I have a plan to tackle the serious issues facing our state and make Georgia work. The last thing Georgia needs right now is more of the same. I have the competent experience to rebuild a solid foundation in Georgia – one that will support a better life, stronger communities, and a brighter future for our families.