



Georgia State Lodge
Fraternal Order of Police

2010 Candidate Questionnaire

Office of United States Senator

Please return by August 10, 2010

GAFOP Legislative Committee

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888-398-8308

Candidate Name: Michael Thurmond

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Web Address: <http://www.mikethurmond2010.com>

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Education: BA from Paine College, JD from University of South Carolina

Political Experience: Georgia House of Representatives, Three-term Labor Commissioner

Military Experience: No

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 the federal government?

To establish justice, protect, and work towards the well-being of all Americans.

2- 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.

I support the Employer-Employee Cooperation Act, but I do believe that public safety officers should be allowed to protest treatment or monetary compensation in the way that best suits their situation. This is crucial for their overall well-being and that of the citizens they serve.

3-We understand the economic situation that Georgia, along with the nation, is currently experiencing. How have you supported budget issues and funding of federal grants necessary for law enforcement agencies in Georgia?

As the Georgia Labor Commissioner I don't sponsor legislation, but I do support tax policies that benefit the law enforcement agencies and officers of Georgia. However, in response to high levels of unemployment, I created the Georgia Works program, a training initiative designed to support job growth and hiring.

As Senator, I will make sure that every federal dollar allocated to our state's law enforcement agencies is quickly and efficiently disbursed.

4-Please explain your overall vision for Homeland Security and protecting America.

The most important task is to protect Americans from threats within and outside of the United States. In every neighborhood and home in Georgia, citizens must feel safe. Law enforcement officers do an incredible job of protecting and serving American citizens, but more can always be done to better the situation. Law enforcement officers should never be overlooked and their dangerous jobs should never be taken for granted.

5-Where do you stand on the death penalty?

As an elected public servant of the people of Georgia, I am committed to uphold the laws of the State, and therefore I do support the current death penalty law in Georgia.

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

Illegal immigration is out of control in this country. While most illegal aliens are law-abiding, those that are not remain a serious threat to the general public. In addition, the use of public services by illegal aliens is fueling our out of control deficit.

My first priority is the citizens of Georgia who pay taxes and I believe it is absolutely necessary to enforce the laws passed by the Georgia legislature.

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

I will work tirelessly to ensure that we have a federal government that is open and honest, appropriates tax dollars wisely, and helps those in need of critical services. Having served in the Georgia General Assembly and as the Labor Commissioner, I have the experience to create sound policies that benefit all Georgians. Politics can no longer be about Democrat vs. Republican, it has to be about what is truly best for the American people.

8- What legislation have you introduced or sponsored that has been beneficial to Georgia law enforcement?

As the Georgia Labor Commissioner I do not have the authority to sponsor legislation. However, I am a frequent resource for many state politicians who seek guidance on how new laws will effect the working people of Georgia.