



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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Candidate Name Nathan Deal

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Party Affiliation Republican

Education J.D., Mercer University(1966) ; B.A., Mercer University (1964)

Political Experience U.S. Congress (GA-9), 1993-2010 ; GA State Senate, 1981-1993

Military Experience Captain, U.S. Army, 1966 - 1968

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 critical functions of our state are public safety, education, transportation and infrastructure. Ensuring the safety of the public is a central responsibility of our state and as your next governor, I will work to ensure law enforcement officers have the tools necessary to do their job well.

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?

As governor, I will prioritize funding for law enforcement agencies and will work to ensure furloughing law enforcement officers is avoided as fully as possible. Even in austere budgeting years such as this, significant opportunities exist to ensure limited state resources are being used to advance the core missions of our state. I will implement zero-based budgeting to ensure tax dollars are being used for these purposes.

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.

I am concerned that this legislation would undermine individual state authority with respect to collective bargaining rights and raises constitutional questions based upon Congress' authority to regulate public safety employment under the interstate commerce clause. I do support efforts to ensure fair and equitable working conditions for public safety officers and will work as governor to ensure the necessary tools are provided for officers to do their job well under favorable working conditions. To achieve this goal, we must ensure limited state resources are being used to pay the salaries of officers, not tied up in expanded administrative costs that could result from enactment of this legislation.

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?

As governor, I will work to ensure all state boards are balanced and reflect the views of all individuals involved in law enforcement in our state.

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

Law enforcement is a central role of our state, city and county governments and funding must be prioritized for their mission of protecting the safety of the public. As governor, I will work through these difficult times for our state with a commitment to ensuring law enforcement officials have the tools they need to do their job well and provide for their families. I will further work to provide additional authority to city and county law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration law. The 287(g) program has worked extremely well in the four counties in Georgia that have this authority in place. I will work to expand the 287(g) program statewide to enhance enforcement of immigration laws in our state.

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?

State budget shortfalls are universally affecting all divisions of law enforcement in our state. It will be incumbent upon the next governor to recognize the need to prioritize funding for public safety agencies across the law enforcement spectrum in Georgia. I am committed to changing the way limited tax dollars are allocated in our state budget to ensure the critical functions of our state – public safety, education, transportation and infrastructure – are prioritized above all else.

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

Georgia ranks No. 6 in the nation in the number of illegal immigrants, costing the state over an estimated \$2 billion per year as a result. Our public services are stretched beyond their limits during these tough economic times, and our open borders burden states and counties. Local taxpayers foot the bill for these significant additional costs. Among the most costly expenditures we face as a result of illegal immigration is the high cost to our justice system. As governor, I will work with the Legislature to sign into law a measure that would implement a statewide 287(g) law enforcement program to expedite deportation of illegal

aliens. This is essentially what Arizona has done, and combined with the recent federal court ruling that overturned key enforcement provisions in the Arizona law, I will work to draft language that will work around the challenges identified by the court.

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

I am the best candidate for governor based upon my conservative principles, experience at the local, state and federal levels, dedication to the people of Georgia and commitment to combat the liberal tax and spend priorities of the Obama Administration and Congress. I have a plan to restore strength to Georgia's economy and create jobs. I will cut the red tape in our state and restore flexibility to local governments. I will eliminate waste, fraud and abuse in state administered programs and prioritize the critical functions of our government, including public safety. Georgia's next governor must have a steady hand on the wheel and the temperament to tackle tough challenges which lie ahead. Difficult choices will require tough decisions as we move forward – we must have a governor rooted in conservative values who will fight to reduce taxes, reduce the size of government, increase accountability of taxpayer dollars and prioritize the essential, constitutionally mandated responsibilities of our state.