



Georgia State Lodge
Fraternal Order of Police

2010 Candidate Questionnaire
Office of Commission of Labor

Please return by August 10, 2010

GAFOP Legislative Committee
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888-398-8308

Candidate Name: Darryl A. Hicks

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Point of Contact: Verna Jennings Cleveland, Campaign Manager

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Party Affiliation: Democrat

Education: Crawford County High School (1981); Bachelor's in Accounting, Morris Brown College (1985); M.B.A. in Executive Management, Georgia State University (2003)

Political Experience: Chief of Staff to Chairman of Fulton County Commission (2007-2010); Candidate for Secretary of State (2006)

Military Experience: None

Other: Member of the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Metropolitan College Foundation (Chairman, 5 years); Board Member, Mutual Savings Credit Union; Board Member, Center for the Visually Impaired (Chair, Advocacy Committee); Former board member: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Atlanta, Habitat for Humanity of Atlanta, and the Butler Street YMCA;

member, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; member, Atlanta Junior League; Chair, South Metro March of Dimes Annual Drive.

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? I believe the most important function of government is the protection of its citizenry, the preservation of property rights, and ensuring that each citizen is afforded equal opportunity to maximize their individual potential.

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 favor, generally, the rights of workers, including public safety officers, to engage in and enter into collective bargaining agreements. More importantly, work stoppages, strikes, or lockouts among public safety officers should be discouraged. As protection of citizens is among the highest priorities of government, it should be the ultimate concern of state and local governments to ensure the fairest of work conditions for first responders to any and all incidents that threaten the safety and well-being of a locality.

3-What do you see as the function of your office? The Department of Labor is responsible for the administration of various programs relating to transition assistance for the unemployed, assisting those seeking employment, and a variety of rehabilitative programs for the disabled. The primary role of the Labor Commissioner is to ensure the efficient and responsive administration of these programs. I view the role of Labor Commissioner as an important component of state government to reduce unemployment and achieve job creation.

4-What changes/improvements will you make if elected? I plan to be a vocal and visible advocate for new job growth and economic development in Georgia. The ultimate solution to unemployment is keeping people who have jobs employed, and creating jobs for those who don't have one. I will make the Department of Labor a place of re-employment rather than just unemployment.

5-How do labor issues apply to law enforcement? Labor issues apply to law enforcement as they should apply to most other industries, but they are most critical when public safety personnel are impacted. The special and unique nature of law enforcement officers as the first responders to incidents affecting the public safety, requires by necessity that such personnel have optimal input in the conditions and matters affecting their employment.

6-What makes you the best candidate for this office? I have a proven track record of managing a large-scale organization with complex challenges. The Labor Department in general, and the job of Labor Commissioner, specifically, is one of effectively managing resources to provide an array of diverse, but coordinated services. In addition, I have substantial experience in the private and public sectors that give me the ability to bring together the business community and workers to strengthen Georgia's workforce and stabilize the state's economy. Lastly, with respect to assisting persons who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, I view the mission of the Labor Department as uniquely able to cultivate an employment setting that is, for workers both secure and rewarding, and for employers, viable and non-restrictive. My primary aim is to keep unemployment down and create employment opportunities.