



GEORGIA FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

P.O. BOX 88 POWDER SPRINGS, GEORGIA 30127
PH: 770-485-7180 E-mail: gafopstatelodge@gmail.com

Mr. Ryan Williams
Carr for Georgia
P.O. Box 724842
Atlanta, Ga 31139
ryan@carrforgeorgia.com
(404)387-5483

The Voice of Law Enforcement Professionals: The Fraternal Order of Police is the world's largest organization of sworn law enforcement officers, with more than 2,100 local lodges and over 356,000 members. 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. Founded in 1915, we are still "Building on a Proud Tradition."

The Georgia Fraternal Order of Police is made up of local Lodges and members spread out around the State of Georgia.

Each election cycle, The Georgia FOP seeks to endorse candidates whose priorities align with ours. The first step in this process is a questionnaire that is presented to the candidates who are seeking office in statewide races. The returned questionnaires will be posted for the FOP membership's review and consideration. Ballots will then be mailed to the membership. Once the ballots are returned and tallied, the Candidate receiving the majority of the votes will receive the endorsement of the FOP.



GEORGIA FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

P.O. BOX 88 POWDER SPRINGS, GEORGIA 30127
PH: 770-485-7180 E-mail: gafopstatelodge@gmail.com

I have attached the questionnaire for Attorney General Carr's consideration. The questionnaire, once completed, and be returned via email to captcall@fop.net. I ask the questionnaire to be returned no later than July 25, 2022.

Sincerely,

Michael Callahan

Michael Callahan
Georgia State Lodge
Fraternal Order of Police
captcall@hotmail.com
229-357-0564

To earn the endorsement of our members, we expect candidates to share our values and articulate how they would use their position to enact laws that protect and stop laws that erode the rights and quality of life of Law Enforcement Officers. Your responses to the following questions will help us determine where our priorities align.

1. In your view, what is the biggest Public Safety challenge facing our State and what would be your administration's plans to address these issues?

In Georgia, somewhere between 60-90% of crime is committed by gangs. Those gangs have a presence in all 159 counties in our state. This year, the Legislature authorized our office to establish the first statewide Gang Prosecution Unit to prosecute gang crimes on a state level. We launched this unit on July 1 to assist local law enforcement and District Attorneys and fill in the gap where additional resources are needed to go after gang-related crimes to enhance the safety of our citizens. Our Gang Prosecution Unit also will be able to step in to prosecute gang cases that local District Attorneys choose not to handle.

I further believe that the lack of respect shown to the men and women in law enforcement recently is unacceptable and creating a dangerous environment for law enforcement and law-abiding community members alike. We must reverse this unacceptable trend by standing up and publicly supporting those in uniform who put themselves in harm's way each and every day to defend our communities. We must provide the training, technology and resources needed to keep law enforcement and communities members safe, and we must demand that prosecutors enforce the laws of our state when law enforcement build cases against those violating Georgia's criminal laws.

2. What if any reforms would you make to State Law Enforcement as a whole?

Although my office is limited in terms of the reforms we can make, we have a history of working with law enforcement and supporting the men and women in uniform who keep our citizens safe. I have and will continue to support our law enforcement agencies through collaboration when applicable to investigate and prosecute violent criminals.

3. What are your thoughts regarding punishment for any individual who knowingly and/or intentionally harms or kills a POST certified Law Enforcement Officer in the State of Georgia? Do you support the death penalty for individuals who knowingly kill a Law Enforcement Officer in the line of duty?

Those who intentionally target our men and women who serve and protect our communities should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. In Georgia, we have a death penalty. Therefore, I support the laws of our state when they are applied in such circumstances.

4. Knowing that Criminal Street Gangs are responsible for a majority of violent crime, drug distribution, theft, fraud, and sex trafficking in Georgia, what would your administration's strategy be to combat Criminal Street Gangs?

This year, the Legislature authorized our office to establish the first statewide Gang Prosecution Unit to prosecute gang crimes. We launched the unit on July 1 to assist local law enforcement and District Attorneys and fill in the gap where additional resources are needed to go after gang-related crimes and deliver better outcomes that lead to a safer Georgia. Our Gang Prosecution Unit also will be able to step in to prosecute gang cases that local District Attorneys choose not to handle.

Additionally, we established a Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit in 2019 to rescue victims and put buyers and sellers in this horrific trade behind bars. This is critically important in going after gangs because they are heavily involved in human trafficking. To date, we have rescued over 107 human trafficking victims and successfully investigated and prosecuted 51 defendants.

5. What actions would you support to increase security in Georgia Public Schools to protect our children and prevent the violence we have seen at schools around our Country? Would you support funding to place P.O.S.T. certified School Resource Officers in all Georgia Public Schools? What other actions would your administration support to increase the safety in Georgia Public Schools?

If the Legislature approves funding to place P.O.S.T. certified School Resource Officers in all Georgia Public Schools, my office will adamantly support it.

Our office's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit works hand in hand with our teachers and school resource officers to educate those in our school systems about how to identify signs of human trafficking victims and the proper steps to take when such a situation arises. Additionally, our Gang Prosecution Unit works with those same stakeholders to address the rise and recruitment of gangs in our educational system. I will continue to commit resources in order to prevent criminal behavior in Georgia schools.

6. Under the doctrine of qualified immunity, governmental officials performing discretionary functions, such as a Law Enforcement Officer making an arrest, are immune from civil suit unless a plaintiff can show the official violated clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person or officer would have known. It is important to emphasize that this immunity is not automatic and does not protect anyone who engages in a criminal act. It exists only for civil suits and is only available if granted by the Court. Qualified immunity is critical to Law Enforcement. Do you support the existing qualified immunity doctrine?

I have stood up publicly and in court to defend the qualified immunity for law enforcement officers carrying out their duties. It is critical that we support our men and women in law enforcement as they work to safeguard our communities. Qualified Immunity provides an invaluable tool to protect officers from frivolous or baseless lawsuits when they perform their duties properly. The loss of qualified immunity would make it more difficult – if not impossible -- to recruit and retain officers.

7. Would your administration enforce and defend the Laws passed by the Georgia Legislature, even if they conflict with your personal or political views.

As Attorney General, my Constitutional and statutory duties require me to defend and enforce the laws duly passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. I took an oath to do exactly that and will continue to do so in the future. I have demonstrated numerous times in my six years as Attorney General that I will set aside my personal views or personal politics to uphold the oath I took to carry out my duties.

8. With the move to pass and enforce “Red Flag Laws” which could remove firearms from citizens who are alleged to be unfit to possess them, what, if any, policies will you put into place to ensure individuals in these cases have Due Process?

In the 14th Amendment, the United States Constitution prohibits any state from passing laws that deprive citizens of their right to due process. My office will remain firmly committed to upholding that provision to ensure that our laws do not violate it. Additionally, we will take legal action against any laws that do not conform with our United States or Georgia Constitutions.

9. Do you support the legalization of marijuana?

Marijuana is still an illegal substance under the federal criminal code. Additionally, our state has taken the same approach. My duty as Attorney General is to uphold the laws of our state. As such, I have and will continue to perform my duty and call for others who share that responsibility to do the same. That said, I do not personally support the legalization of marijuana for recreational purposes.

10. How would you interact with Georgia Law Enforcement?

In recent years, we have seen leaders across the country villainize our men and women and uniform. I remain steadfastly committed to supporting and promoting those who keep our communities safe. As Attorney General, I have consistently attended conferences of the Georgia Sheriffs, Georgia Chiefs of Police, GBI and others. As a result of my consistent work with law enforcement,

I was honored to receive a Lifetime Membership Award from the Peace Officers Association of Georgia. I have given out my personal cell phone number while speaking at these conferences. Our office works hand in hand with our law enforcement agencies to promote public safety and to investigate and prosecute criminals who fall within our purview. I will always maintain our strong partnership and achieve results in those areas.

11. What qualifies you as the best candidate for this position?

Throughout my time as Attorney General, I have remained committed to protecting lives, livelihoods, and liberties. I have a proven record of prioritizing and addressing major issues such as human trafficking, gangs, opioid abuse, cyber crimes, and elder abuse. I stand by the successes we have achieved in these key areas and look forward to continuing to focus on these challenges because it is the paramount duty of Georgia leaders to protect our citizens.