



# GEORGIA FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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

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Mr. Tate Mitchell  
Governor Brian Kemp  
Campaign 2022  
[tate@briankemp2022.com](mailto:tate@briankemp2022.com)  
706-825-8322

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.



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I have attached the questionnaire for Governor Kemp's consideration. The questionnaire, once completed, and be returned via email to [captcall@hotmail.com](mailto:captcall@hotmail.com). I ask the questionnaire to be returned no later than July 15, 2022.

Sincerely,

*Michael Callahan*

Michael Callahan  
Georgia State Lodge  
Fraternal Order of Police  
[captcall@hotmail.com](mailto: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?

As Georgians witness rising crime in Democrat-led states and cities across the country, my administration has taken action to keep our streets and communities safe. Working with state and local law enforcement, we formed the Crime Suppression Unit to go after street gangs, street racers, and violent criminals, and together, we have made tremendous progress. Additionally, I have bolstered the resources at the GBI and the Attorney General's office to go after street gangs with an Anti-Gang Task Force and a new prosecution unit to work in tandem with local district attorneys.

If I am honored to continue serving as Georgia's governor, I will continue to build on these efforts to work with law enforcement at the state and local level and ensure they have the resources and support to keep Georgia families safe.

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

In the last year, we made strides to boost both recruitment and retention efforts for state law enforcement. In addition to a one-time, supplemental bonus of \$1,000 for all state law enforcement last year, the budget I signed into law this year included funding for an additional trooper class with the Georgia State Patrol along with a \$5,000 pay increase for all state law enforcement. We also added criminal justice and law enforcement degrees to the Technical College System of Georgia's high-demand career initiatives in order to provide free tuition to Georgians looking to join the ranks of law enforcement. As Governor, I will continue fighting to ensure we recruit the best our state has to offer to serve in state law enforcement.

3. Across the State of Georgia, Law Enforcement Agencies have seen their sworn ranks shrink over the years due to budget cuts as well as an overall lack of interest in our profession largely due to the anti-police movement and negative media coverage. What would your administration do to help recruit, train, and retain qualified Law Enforcement Officers?

The Defund the Police movement is a disgraceful insult to the men and women who serve in law enforcement every day. As Georgia's governor, I signed a bill to let heroes in law enforcement know we have their back by banning rogue local governments from defunding the police. Additionally, as I mentioned, my budgets and proposals have included pay raises for state law enforcement as well as free tuition at TCSG for Georgians seeking to serve in the field of law enforcement. I continue to hear from leaders in law enforcement across the state about the need to recruit and retain officers,

and it is my commitment to continue finding ways to bolster those efforts if I am elected to a second term.

4. 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?

Yes. This year, my administration allocated \$2.6 million from the State Law Enforcement Training Grant Program to the Georgia Public Safety Training Center to enhance training for School Resource Officers. These funds will increase instructor capacity and further grow the number of courses available for School Resource Officers. Additionally, in 2019, I set aside \$69 million for school security grants, ensuring every public school in Georgia received \$30,000 to implement school security measures. Under my leadership, the Georgia Public Safety Training Center will train more than 300 school resource officers this year and will offer an additional six Active Shooter classes for School Resource Officers. We have also allocated historic funding dedicated to promoting mental health in our schools. Keeping our children safe is a top priority for me as Governor, and I will continue working diligently to ensure our schools are safe.

5. 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?

Yes.

6. 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?

The men and women who serve in law enforcement are heroes, and anyone who intentionally harms or kills an officer should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and held accountable. As Governor, it is my commitment to ensure justice is served in these instances.

7. The Georgia Department of Corrections has traditionally been severely understaffed, and the funding appropriated by the Legislature for the Department has not been utilized to increase pay and benefits for the front-line Correctional Officers. These staff shortages place Correctional Officers and the communities in extreme danger as demonstrated by a recent situation where inmates took control of a prison until it was recaptured by surrounding Law Enforcement. What would your Administration do to increase hiring, training, and retention of State Correctional Officers?

Under my administration, Georgia issued a \$1,000 pay supplement in 2021 to Department of Corrections officers. The State has also increased the starting salary of correctional officers by an average of more than \$7,300 since 2021 in addition to increasing the 401(k) employer match. We also provide resources for professional development, including Field Training Officer programs, supervision and management classes, multi-functional officer certifications, and Certified Addiction Counselor training and boosted recruiting efforts in schools, universities, and technical colleges throughout the state. I will continue working alongside Department of Corrections leadership and members of the General Assembly to ensure the agency has the necessary resources to operate successfully.

8. Would you support legislation to increase POAB member benefits to all active and retired LE officers in Georgia?

I will continue to work alongside leaders in the General Assembly to ensure we pass legislation that helps us both recruit/retain the best in law enforcement and honor those who have served while ensuring state funding can support those efforts.

9. Retired State Law Enforcement Officers have only received a small Cost of Living Adjustment to their retirement in the last fifteen years. Many of these Officers dedicated over thirty years of their lives to serving and protecting the citizens of the State of Georgia. With the increase in the cost of everyday expenses, many of these heroes find it difficult to meet their financial obligations with the current retirement pay. Do you support annual funding for a yearly cost of living adjustment to the retirement pensions for retired State Law Enforcement Officers?

See the answer above.

10. Do you support pay parity for all State Law Enforcement Officers?

Yes.

11. Do you support the legalization of marijuana?

No.

12. Would you be open to appointing a member of the Georgia Fraternal of Police to the Peace Officer's Standards and Training Council and/or other Law Enforcement related boards?

Yes. I will work to ensure law enforcement across our state feel their voices are heard and that they are well-represented when decisions are made at the state level.

13. How would you interact with Georgia Law Enforcement?

I am proud to serve alongside some of the most honorable men and women of integrity in Georgia who work tirelessly to keep our families and communities safe. My family and I will continue to treat all members of law enforcement with the respect they deserve and ensure they have the resources and backing they need to do their jobs.

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

Throughout my first term in office – amid historic civil unrest and a global pandemic – I've been proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with the men and women in Georgia's law enforcement community.

Working together, we have cracked down on gang violence, led the fight to end human trafficking, toughened penalties for criminals, and strengthened efforts to keep Georgians safe in their communities. We spent countless late nights side by side in the State Operations Center, protecting our capital city and ensuring Georgians could protest peacefully.

As Governor, I have led the charge to recruit more officers into the profession, increase the number of officers at the state level, make it easier for Georgians to enter the field of law enforcement, and stop the radical "Defund the Police" movement from ever taking hold in our state. While my opponent has openly supported and profited from anti-police policies and organizations, my family and I have stood with law enforcement at every turn – and we always will.

It has been one of my highest honors to work with the brave men and women who wake up every day and put their lives on the line to serve and protect. I'm confident my longstanding support for law enforcement is well known among your members, and as I do every day as our state's 83<sup>rd</sup> Governor, I trust their judgement in picking the best candidate to build a safer, stronger Georgia.