

**Sheriffs are elected officials who have the power to make our communities safer for everyone.** That's why it's important to know where they stand on issues, such as reducing overcrowding and improving safety at Fulton County Jail.

We asked the candidates for Fulton County Sheriff about ways to reduce overcrowding and improve safety at Fulton County Jail. In addition, we polled 800 Fulton voters to understand their opinion on the jail. **Learn more about the where each candidate stands and our new poll about Fulton County Jail at [www.acluga.org](http://www.acluga.org).**

*Note: An earlier version of this scorecard transposed responses of candidates Kirt Beasley and Charles Rambo. After initial publication of this scorecard, we received questionnaire responses from Sheriff Pat Labat, which have been updated.*



**CHARLES D. RAMBO**



**JOYCE FARMER**



**JAMES "J.T." BROWN**



**KIRT BEASLEY**



**SHERIFF PAT LABAT**

**Will you commit to annual training for personnel to help improve support for and interactions with detainees with mental health needs?**

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

### WHAT FULTON COUNTY VOTERS SAY

Three out of four Fulton County voters believe people with mental health and substance abuse issues should receive treatment instead of being sent to jail, which would help reduce overcrowding and safety issues.

**What will be your policies for supporting mental health for people held at Fulton County Jail?**

Initiate a pilot program on neuroscience, drawing insights from leading practitioners

Provide comprehensive mental health support for detainees; train staff to recognize and support mental distress

Create a think tank of law enforcement experts, medical experts, and law

Ensure staff receives annual training on how to identify individuals suffering from mental illness

Conduct mental health training for staff; provide specialized training for team members who come into close contact with detainees

### WHAT FULTON COUNTY VOTERS SAY

More than three out of four Fulton County voters agree that the Fulton County Sheriff and other county agencies should be required to make attempts to contact family members of inmates with significant mental health issues.

**Will you collect and share data about in-custody deaths?**

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes (upon closure of investigation and receipt of approval)

**SCORECARD**  
**Fulton County**  
**Sheriff Candidates**



**CHARLES D. RAMBO**



**JOYCE FARMER**



**JAMES "J.T." BROWN**



**KIRT BEASLEY**



**SHERIFF PAT LABAT**

<p><b>What plans, if any, do you have to reduce the population of the Fulton County Jail?</b></p>	<p>Increase use of signature bonds; provide enhanced access to legal resources, such as the law library and counsel to facilitate speedy trials</p>	<p>Divert individuals through Sheriff Relief Program; explore a sheriff's release program; collaborate with mental health organizations to release inmates deemed stable for outside treatment</p>	<p>Work with the DA and solicitor general to move cases; work with pretrial detention and diversion program; extend Sign Own Bonds for detained persons</p>	<p>Meet with the municipal police chiefs of all cities to discuss charges that can be given citations with a court date; work with courts to get detainees released in under 24 hours</p>	<p>Created an Inmate Advocacy Unit focused on outsourcing detainees under court supervision, which has led to consent bonds or release for 500 non-violent detainees</p>
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**WHAT FULTON COUNTY VOTERS SAY**

Three-quarters of Fulton County voters believe the Fulton County Jail is overcrowded.

<p><b>Do you think Fulton County needs to build a new \$2 billion jail?</b></p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes</p>
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**WHAT FULTON COUNTY VOTERS SAY**

Two out of three Fulton County voters believe Fulton County should renovate the existing facility instead of spending nearly \$2 billion on a new jail and support using the savings to invest in alternatives to incarceration.

<p><b>What plans do you have to improve the safety of the Fulton County Jail?</b></p>	<p>Reintroduce Compstat and Correctional Oriented Policing Strategies</p>	<p>Review existing policies; provide additional training; and conduct security rounds every 30 minutes (15 minutes for mental health rounds)</p>	<p>Revamp the intake process to properly house gang members, LBTQIA+ people, persons needing medical care, and the mentally ill; ensure proper staffing;</p>	<p>Hire a minimum of 200 quality staff members to adequately resource the jail and provide additional training to staff</p>	<p>Improving safety will require a replacement facility and the necessary resources to enhance recruitment and retention, including double time for jail staff</p>
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