

# CANDIDATE: KIRT BEASLEY



Are you an active military member or veteran?

- Yes
- No

Educational Background (Please list all degrees and certifications)

AA Degree in Criminal Justice, Fulton County Supervision and Management Training

Have you run for office previously?

- Yes
- No

Please tell us about any volunteer work you've done in the last 5 years?

Adopt a Senior, Hands on Atlanta, Young Adult Entrepreneurship Workshop, Pastoral election board committee chair, Grounds Beatification Committee, Youth Sports Trainer, Sickle Cell Foundation, Christmas Gift Drive, Community Homeowners Association Member

Why are you interested in this office?

I am interested in this office because I care about our tax dollars, the Sheriff's Office staff, the detainees/their loved ones and the citizens of Fulton County. Additionally, I want to foster partnerships with local business owners to help with recidivism.

What interaction, if any, have you had with the Fulton County Jail?

I worked for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office for 24+ years, with 23 of those years being at the jail. More recently I worked June 2023 - November 2023, as a contractor, at the Fulton County Jail to spearhead the Inmate advocacy unit to aid in reducing the jail population.

How long have you been a resident of Fulton County?

2.5 years

Tell us anything else you would like us to know about (150 words)

I have 24+ years of experience with the Fulton County Sheriff's Office. As Assistant Chief Jailer, I managed a \$70M budget which include expenses such as jail salaries, the meal contract, day to day operational items and medication for the detainees. During my tenure, I managed the inmate welfare fund and was a part of an integral team that worked through and out from under the federal consent decree. I possess a wealth of knowledge which I gathered by surrounding myself with strategic leaders and we worked in a concerted effort to propel the agency forward. This is a key quality that I will continue as Sheriff. I will provide excuses, as everything is my responsibility when I take office. I will work with the Managers of the cities within Fulton to make the county a safer place and work with the Commissioners to ensure tax dollars are responsibly spent.

## Enforcement Duties

The Sheriff's Office is responsible for administration and operation of the Fulton County Jail, providing security for all courtrooms and judges, and providing Warrant Service/Civil Process, and Special Operations and Investigative Units. The Sheriff also conducts Delinquent Property Tax Sales.

Considering all the duties the Sheriff's office is responsible for, training of its employees becomes particularly crucial.

Will you commit to annual training for personnel in the following areas:

- Bias (implicit and/or explicit) - YES
- Bias (implicit and/or explicit) - NO
- Mental health for detainees - YES
- Mental health for detainees - NO
- Mental health of Deputies and other staff - YES
- Mental health of Deputies and other staff - NO
- Use of force/de escalation - YES
- Use of force/de escalation - NO

What will be/are your policies related to the categories above?

As it relates to the Bias policy, I will ensure staff members are educated on what implicit, explicit bias and discrimination are, and how they may appear in the work place. Additionally, I will have a professional in this field of study to train staff to identify bias so when it is presented, staff will know how it can be identified and how to address it to prevent it from happening again.

As it relates to the mental health policy for detainees, I will ensure the staff receives annual training from a medical professional who will train staff on how to identify detainees suffering from mental illness so when they encounter a situation or someone in a crisis, the staff will be trained in de-escalating that situation.

As it relates to mental health for Deputies and other staff, I will ensure our leadership members receive training from a medical professional to aid in identifying employees struggling with their mental health and how to proceed in getting them assistance.

As it relates to use of force, staff will be trained on de escalation techniques and tactics. Additionally, staff will be trained on what excessive force is and why it should not be used.

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Collecting data is important as data analytics can uncover patterns that can ultimately improve safety and efficiency. Additionally, the sharing of data provides an accountability measure. Will you collect and share data openly in the following categories?

- Use of Force - YES
- Use of Force - NO
- In Custody Deaths - YES
- In Custody Deaths - NO
- Service contracts - YES
- Service contracts - NO

## Jail Management

The state of Georgia has the highest rate of correctional control in the country. Recently, efforts have been made to reduce the number of people held in the Fulton County Jail.

What plans, if any, do you have to reduce the population of the Fulton County Jail? (150 words)

My plan will begin with meeting with the Police Chiefs of all the cities in Fulton to discuss charges that can be given citations with a court date, as oppose to bringing them to the jail. The Records/Release staff and I will work diligently with the Courts, the District Attorney, the Solicitor, the Clerk, the Probation Officers and other Justice Partners on receiving and processing paperwork to get the detainees released under 24 hours.

Do you think Fulton County needs to build a new \$2 billion jail?

- Yes
- No

Since 2022, over 20 people have died in the custody of the Fulton County Sheriff's department. What plans do you have to improve the safety of the Fulton County Jail? (150 words)

Within the first year of my term I plan to hire a minimum of 200 quality staff members to adequately resource the Fulton County Jail. Additionally, staffing assignments will be reassessed and staff may be reassigned and reallocated to more efficiently support the needs of the agency. Ultimately, I will increase the staffing levels at the jail, train, re-train and support the existing staff.

We are all aware that there is bias in policing in the United States. According to our 2023 report, "Breaking the Cycle, Exploring Alternatives to a New Jail," 89% of the population in the Fulton County Jail is Black, while Black people make up 43% of the population of Fulton County. As Sheriff, what will you do within your powers to reduce the racial disparities in incarceration? (150 words)

I will extend the Bias Based Profiling training to the Detention Officers to aid in reducing racial disparities while detainees are incarcerated. I will ensure all Deputies complete the Bias Based Profiling training as required by POST (Peace Officers Standard Training).

Section [287\(g\) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act](#) allows the Department of Homeland Security to enter into formal written agreements with state or local law enforcement agencies and deputize selected state and local law enforcement officers to perform certain functions of federal immigration agents. Cooperation with ICE does not make our community safer, it harms our community.

Will you commit to not reinstating 287(g) in Fulton County?

Yes

No

**Other**

Civil asset forfeiture is used by law enforcement to confiscate property they deem as having been used in criminal activity and does not require a conviction or criminal charges. What should due process look like for people who seek to regain their property that has been seized by the department?

If a citizen is not found guilty, they should be able to get their property returned back to them. People who seek to regain their property should initiate contact with the arresting agency and initiate the proper steps. This due process recommendation is inclusive to the Sheriff's Office and the other municipalities and agencies.

What protections should community members have from civil asset forfeiture?

Community members should remain innocent until proven guilty, which means their property should not be sold off or distributed until a decision has been rendered by the courts.

An essential duty of the Fulton County Sheriff department is to provide security at the courthouse and in courtrooms.

What plans do you have to improve court security/efficiency?

Ensure there is adequate staffing to support the courthouse and courtrooms, as this will be the only means that we can ensure there are proper protections in place to combat any potential issues that may arise.

Are you willing to participate in a ACLU of Georgia Town Hall Meeting with other Fulton County Sheriff candidates on April 16, 2024?

Yes

No

Other: .....