

# CANDIDATE: CHARLES D. RAMBO



Are you an active military member or veteran?

Yes

No

## Educational Background (Please list all degrees and certifications)

I began my career path with a diploma in Mortuary Science from Gupton-Jones College in 1988, which led me to discover my passion for public service. Earning an extensive portfolio of certifications from the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council as a basic, intermediate, advanced, and senior deputy sheriff, I proficiently executed a broad range of duties specific to the Office of Sheriff.

I have tackled complex challenges in modern law enforcement by receiving specialized investigative training in criminal, background homicide, sex crimes, gang activities, SWAT operations, and executive protection. I have also undergone Supervision 120 and Management 120 modules that have furthered my previous military leadership training for promotion into supervisory and management roles.

In addition, I have shaped the next generation of law enforcement professionals through comprehensive training and mentorship, which is reflected in my state designation as a field training officer, general instructor, and senior instructor.

To broaden my expertise in technologies to evolving 21st-century threats, I have attained federal certifications in intelligence analysis from the US Department of Homeland Security and Part 107 Drone Operator certification from the Federal Aviation Administration.

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Have you run for office previously?

Yes

No

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

Over the past five years, I have devoted my time to volunteer initiatives that align with my expertise and passion for community engagement. One of my contributions was to monthly sessions where I acted as a subject matter expert to develop a curriculum with mental health practitioners. Together, we explored the integration of neuroscience as a 21st-century innovation within law enforcement operations, fostering a nuanced understanding of behavioral dynamics. In addition,

I actively engaged with youth by imparting essential knowledge through forums and gatherings at places of worship. Through workshops titled "Know Your Rights and Exercise Common Sense," I empowered young to navigate interactions with law enforcement officers responsibly and confidently. I extend my commitment to education by teaching management and operations at the courses at the Fulton Public Safety Training Center, furthering the professional development of a new generation of criminal justice leaders.

Why are you interested in this office?

The current crisis in the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, particularly regarding jail operations, requires immediate attention. To restore public trust and confidence, I bring over 34 years of expertise in shaping effective public policies related to the role of Sheriff. My commitment to the people is to deliver seismic results within the first year of taking office. I am ready to lead a comprehensive turnaround by implementing the Constitutional Sheriff Initiative,

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

My involvement with the Fulton County Jail began in 1989 and has spanned over three decades. I was initially hired at the Jefferson Street facility, and my expertise in inmate management quickly led me to the transition team tasked with inaugurating operations at 901 Rice Street. Leveraging my military background, I established unparalleled internal order and discipline standards for maximum security, mental health, and general populations. During the Fambro v. Fulton County litigation, I identified critical compliance discrepancies within kitchen operations and played a pivotal role in securing resolution under a federal consent decree by addressing them with my keen eye for detail. From 2009 to 2016, I implemented Compstat as an evidence-based management approach to achieve federal consent decree compliance with the Foster v. Fulton County litigation.

How long have you been a resident of Fulton County?

I have been a resident of Fulton County for 37 years.

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

As Chief Development Officer of Rambo Solutions, LLC I provide I provide expert opinion on news stories related to law enforcement operations. I also provide expert testimony for legal cases and host accredited training webinars to global students on criminal justice topics.

## 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 a Georgia POST Senior Instructor, I have a proven track record of designing and teaching courses on racial profiling prevention and contributing to the Georgia Governor's Initiative on Police Legitimacy, Community Relations, and Procedural Justice. I have specifically tailored these courses to align with the functions of the Sheriff's office. Furthermore, I plan to initiate a test-pilot program on Neuroscience, drawing insights from leading mental health practitioners. This program will encompass day-to-day operations where Sheriff deputies manage self-care, respond to mental health calls for service, and employ more persuasive approaches to de-escalating force. Recognizing the critical nature of compliance, a dedicated team consisting of supervisors, internal affairs investigators, and instructors will be deployed to ensure all duties are performed consistently with this new agency direction.

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)

It is imperative for the Sheriff, as an independent check and balance, to uphold the principles of justice and alleviate overcrowding in alignment with the constitutional rights guaranteed by the 6th Amendment. I intend to utilize my executive authority to release misdemeanor-charged inmates based on their in-custody conduct, criminal history, or inability to post bond within 72 hours via a signature bond. Additionally, inmates remaining in custody will receive enhanced access to legal resources such as the law library and counsel to facilitate speedy trials. Excessive detention will be promptly brought to the judiciary's attention, especially when inmates are Further Notice by the courts.

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)

Under O.C.G.A. 36-9-5, the board of commissioners must allocate funds for jail repairs and enhancements. Nevertheless, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 15-16-10, I will bear the sole responsibility for the welfare of inmates under my custody and the standards of their confinement. To address concerns regarding the safety of the Fulton County Jail, I intend to reintroduce my proven Compstat and Correctional Oriented Policing Strategies. These initiatives were instrumental in satisfying the federal court that inmates were being housed in safe and humane conditions.

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)

Building on my demonstrated approach highlighted in the 11 Alive News report, Navigating the World Black and Blue, I emphasized reforms to biased policing. Recognizing the need for a sociological understanding of crime, my administration will focus on individual responsibility. All inmates remanded to my custody will experience five-star accommodations, emphasizing internal order, discipline, high sanitation, humane treatment, and reintegration opportunities for eligible individuals, aiming to reduce recidivism.

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?

Pursuant to *Elder v. Camp*, it is affirmed that Sheriffs are not permitted to violate the constitutional guarantees against unlawful search and seizure. Under my administration, if a deputy lawfully executes their duties with justified probable cause leading to seizure, O.C.G.A. 16-14-7 will be applied.

What protections should community members have from civil asset forfeiture?

In the interest of a person's 5th Amendment right to due process, my policy on civil asset forfeiture will be more restrictive than O.C.G.A. 16-14-7. In cases lacking justification (with or without a court ruling), property (other than illegal substances or articles) will be returned to the rightful owner. This practice should set a standard for other policing agencies operating within the venue and jurisdiction of Fulton County.

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?

In accordance with OCGA 15-16-10 (2) (10), I will enhance our comprehensive security plan by improving Sheriff Deputies' training in intelligence-led policing. This will enable us to better detect and mitigate internal and external threats to civil and criminal justice administration within the courthouse and courtrooms.

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: .....