

ACLU Questionnaire

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

- AT&T FirstNet Health & Wellness Board of Directors, Member: Charged with developing programming and initiatives focused on services for First Responders and their physical and mental well-being.
- L.E.A.D. Ambassadors – serve as a mentor to youth across metro Atlanta to overcome crime, poverty and racism.
- Carpool Fridays – Engaging with elementary school students to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community in conjunction with Atlanta Public Schools and Fulton County Schools.
- Senior Center engagement – hands on senior engagement to include meal delivery, annual senior picnic/white party as well as safety and wellness initiatives
- Kappa Alpha Psi Guide Right Program – mentoring program for youth designed to cultivate future leaders and help prepare students for college and post secondary endeavors.

Why are you interested in this office?

I am passionate about fighting for the safety, security and advancement of Fulton County. While I have accomplished a great deal in my first term, there remains much work to be done. As we continue to build safer and stronger communities and protect those we serve, it is imperative that we work in a collaborative manner with all stakeholders to move the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, and the county as a whole, forward.

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

- Secured GROUNDBREAKING EMPLOYEE PAY RAISES to 36%, competitive \$10,500 signing bonus, and increased overtime pay to double time
- REDUCED JAIL POPULATION resulting in 600 detainees no longer sleeping on the floor
- Achieved 100% BODY-WORN CAMERA USAGE increasing transparency and accountability
- REDUCED CRIME — captured 20 of Fulton County's Most Wanted and removed hundreds of guns off the street
- ENHANCED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES for detainees and introduced mandatory wellness evaluations for employees

How long have you been a resident of Fulton County?

56 years

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

Sheriff Patrick "Pat" Labat serves as the 28th Sheriff of Fulton County, Georgia overseeing a staff of 1,075 employees, including 800 sworn and 275 civilians and manages an annual budget of more than \$143 million. Since taking office on January 1, 2021, he has achieved

unprecedented success within the Fulton County Sheriff's Office with respect to recruitment and retention, jail reform, courthouse security as well as crime prevention and public safety.

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?

- See attached policies.

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 at the closure of an investigation and upon receipt of approval from the Fulton County law department.

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)

I created an Inmate Advocacy Unit which is focused on outsourcing detainees who remain under court supervision as well as partnering with our justice partners (i.e., the District Attorney, Solicitor, Judges and Public Defender's offices) resulting in consent bonds/releases for nearly 500 non-violent detainees. As a result of the efforts of this newly created specialized unit, we have been successful at getting more than 600 detainees off the floor. More than X detainees are currently outsourced to the City of Atlanta Detention Center and the Cobb County Adult Detention Center.

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)

It is important to note that 40 people have died in the Fulton County Jail prior to 2022. Since taking office on January 1, 2021, I have repeatedly stated that underfunding, under-resourcing and neglect of the facility will result in an ongoing crisis and that lives will remain at risk. Improving safety within the Fulton County Jail will not only require a replacement facility, but will also demand the necessary resources to enhance recruitment and retention – including double time for jail 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)

The realization is that Atlanta alone has 1.2 million 911 calls per year. As law enforcement, our responsibility is to go where our community asks us to go. We've increased access for the Public Defender's office and the PAD 311 program to ensure that detainees have more equitable resources. The PAT 3 re-entry program is focused on providing second and sometimes third chances to those who are capable of reentering society and rebuilding their lives.

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

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?

What protections should community members have from civil asset forfeiture?

The constitutional duties of the sheriff's office is to uphold the law. Changing due process for civil asset forfeiture involves reevaluating the current laws and procedures to ensure fairness and protect individuals' rights. This could include implementing stricter standards of evidence, providing better legal representation for those whose assets are seized, and increasing transparency in the forfeiture process.

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?

- upgraded the camera system to the Fusus system
- upgraded the security x-ray machines at the main security entrances
- quarterly emergency mass evacuation training with all Justice Center Partners
- upgraded the camera system at Juvenile Courts
- conducted annual active shooter training
- provided security for several high profile cases: special Grand Jury for former President Trumps;
- provided security for the longest criminal jury trial in history to include partnering with outside agencies to assist

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

Yes