



# GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, 701 MARRIOTT DR, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214  
1-800-451-2711, 615-399-0900, FAX 615-399-0400

**CHUCK CANTERBURY**  
PRESIDENT  
4653 REDWOOD DRIVE  
MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29588  
843-248-1310  
FAX 843-293-5386  
EMAIL fopchuck@aol.com

**PAT YOES**  
SECRETARY

## Session 10

The Fraternal Order of Police believes that it is crucial for our organization to be involved with politics in our country and our communities. As public employees every aspect of our members' jobs is influenced by the people our citizens elect to run our government. Political figures can determine who runs our departments, the laws which we must enforce, what funding and tools we are given to help us enforce them.

Our organization has many ways that we involve ourselves with politics. We can provide endorsements to candidates who support our causes, as well as provide them with forums that they can use to reach our members through mailings, press releases, news conferences, phone banks, newsletter articles, and allowing candidates to speak at our meetings. We often assign someone from our union to work with the candidate on his or her campaign. This person would make appearances in public with the candidate and support them in any number of other ways as the situation warrants. At the same time we also believe strongly in using our resources to speak out against candidates who we feel would be detrimental to the causes we support and to the well-being of our membership.

We have also formed political action committees in order to support issues that affect our officers. One of the Fraternal Order of Police's major tools for supporting our members is our legislative office, the Steve Young Law Enforcement Legislative Advocacy Center, which is the most effective law enforcement advocacy group in Washington, DC. This office is the voice of our membership in Washington. They have successfully lobbied on behalf of our members on many important issues. One of the notable recent victories is the passage of HR 218, the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, which exempts qualified active and retired law enforcement officers from local and State prohibitions on the carrying of concealed firearms.

