

The following report is from the GRA Vetting Committee, which has gathered information on the above candidate through various sources. This report is solely to be used to inform GRA members and others on information about the candidates for various offices in reaching a decision on who to endorse or vote for. This report is NOT a statement on the opinion of the entire GRA or any subset thereof, except for the GRA Vetting Committee, and is not designed to assist or support any candidate. This information is to be supplemental to, and not in lieu of, independent research on each candidate.

Rob Lee
Candidate Summary for 2019 GAGOP Convention

This section was derived from Robert Lee's answers to questions asked by the Vetting Committee via a conference call interview.

1. Do you support a primary or caucus system for choosing nominees or a hybrid of both?

A: I'd like to see a hybrid system.

2. Should the GAGOP be more or less involved in legislation at the state Capitol?

A: Before that could happen, the GAGOP must have a platform which points to our values. I don't think the GOP can advocate for legislation unless we know where the voters are on it. Overall, I don't favor party lobbying or forcing legislative votes. I think our job is to encourage citizens to be their own lobbyists.

3. Should the GAGOP have a platform that conforms to our stated beliefs?

A: The State GOP should have some kind of platform, but that we must go beyond that and engage people the entire year. Collecting data on people is important and we need a method to know who our potential voters are.

4. Do you see a potential conflict of interest when a lobbyist whose living comes from the political arena is allowed to serve on the GAGOP Executive Committee?

A: While I believe that any citizen can have a conflict between their private lives and legislation, the real question should be if the person would be honest about it. It mainly revolves around integrity.

Follow-up question: Do you think there's a potential conflict of interest with Watson's endorsement of Ralston?

A: I see little wrong with it.

5. Do you support closed primaries?

A: I strongly believe that primaries should be for registered Republicans.

6. Do you believe that GOP elected officials who fail to follow our Georgia and U.S. Constitutions and Republican principles hurt the party in the eyes of the voters?

A: Yes, when legislators vote contrary to Republican principles and our constitutions. I don't think that voters know much about our constitutions.

7. What is the proper remedy for a Republican politician who consistently votes contrary to what the Republican Party believes?

A: I don't think we should shield incumbents in the primary from challengers. But, the proper method, under current party rules, is to remove those who fail to vote by our principles during the primary. I'm not in favor of GOP County Chairs calling out bad politicians, and the party should never use party resources to unseat an incumbent. The party's sole purpose is to elect Republicans in the general election.

Follow-up question: Should the GAGOP back all candidates?

A: We should be strategic with a plan that begins early in the election process.

8. Should a committee or the convention have the authority to change Republican Convention Rules? (This question deals with Rule 12 which authorizes the party via a committee to make rule changes which could be used to prevent some candidates from being allowed the nomination at convention.)

A: The convention should be in charge of the rules.

9. What can you tell us about the Georgia Republican Assembly?

A: The Republican Assembly is old, and it exists in some areas and not others. I don't think the GRA would allow me to become a member.

10. What is your plan to keep Georgia red in 2020?

A: We need a documented business plan and a strategic plan. There should be job descriptions for GOP positions. The State Committee rules need to be changed to require monthly meetings. I suggest that each county adopt a strategic plan and apply for grant money. We need to revamp how we get our story to voters, especially to young people. We need good equipment to produce videos and other things.

Follow-up question: Why did you resign as 11th District Communications Director just prior to their convention?

A: When I returned from my honeymoon a few days before the convention, I was greatly angered by something I discovered online which triggered a very emotional response. Now, I believe I could have handled the situation better.