



METRO ATLANTA DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA

**LOCAL ELECTORAL
GUIDE
2020**

ABOUT OUR VOTER GUIDE

This Georgia voter guide by Metro Atlanta DSA highlights key races and movement candidates running for office in the June 9th, 2020 Democratic party primary.

Who holds legislative power affects the possibilities for democratic social change. For many people open to radical politics, their first political experiences come through electoral politics. In a world of big-money politics, our chapter's electoral work is dependent on the grassroots power of our members.

We can defeat the Right and take on Georgia's "good ol' boys network" of establishment politicians by acting on two democratically mandated resolutions:

Our local chapter's 2020 Electoral Priority Resolution that calls for rank-and-file members to run for down-ballot seats and develop a general electoral plan in coalition with organizations like Our Revolution Georgia.

DSA's National Electoral Priority Resolution, passed at the 2019 convention, which favors supporting openly democratic socialist candidates - and also anti-corporate progressives.

We require our whole membership to vote to endorse a candidate, and an endorsement includes a commitment for the chapter to devote resources to that campaign. Apart from Nabliyah Islam and Michael Owens, the voting recommendations for every other candidate listed in this voter guide are recommendations made by Metro Atlanta DSA's Local Electoral working group, not endorsements from the chapter as a whole. We hope this document offers guidance for left-minded voters who want to vote for the most left-wing candidate but don't have time to do thorough research on the candidates.

Let's Get Socialists Into Office!

The best way to really get a full understanding of the electoral landscape in Georgia is to plug in. If you are a socialist interested in running for an elected position or supporting class struggle candidates from behind the scenes, now is the time to get involved. This is a marathon and we have elections every year. Let's start building our bench for 2021 and beyond.

Visit madsa.ga/join to start organizing with us!

GEORGIA ELECTION INFORMATION

JUNE 9 GEORGIA PRESIDENTIAL, GENERAL PRIMARY/NonPARTISAN GENERAL ELECTION

AUGUST 11 PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION, NONPARTISAN GENERAL RUNOFF FOR LOCAL AND STATE OFFICES (MOVED FROM JULY 21)

OCTOBER 5 LAST DAY FOR VOTER REGISTRATION

OCTOBER 12 FIRST DAY OF ADVANCED IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

NOVEMBER 3 GENERAL ELECTION

JANUARY 5 GENERAL ELECTION RUNOFF

GA VOTER PROTECTION LINE 888-730-5816

If you experience any challenges voting or registering to vote, please call the Georgia Voter Protection for help.

COUNTY ELECTION OFFICES

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY 706-613-3150
155 E. WASHINGTON ST. ATHENS 30601

COBB COUNTY 770-528-2581
736 WHITLOCK AVE NW, #400 MARIETTA 30064

DEKALB COUNTY 404-298-4020
4380 MEMORIAL DR. #300 DECATUR 30032

FULTON COUNTY 404-612-3816
130 PEACHTREE ST SW #2186 ATLANTA 30303

GWINNETT COUNTY 678-226-7210
455 GRAYSON HWY 200 LAWRENCEVILLE 30046

ALWAYS CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION WITH THE GEORGIA SECRETARY OF STATE: **WWW.MVP.SOS.GA.GOV**

Voter Guide at a Glance

"Endorsed" candidates are those who have been endorsed by Metro Atlanta DSA.
"Best Choice" candidates have not been endorsed by our chapter, but have platforms that make them the best option compared to other candidates.

Federal Elections

Georgia Congressional Districts

District 1 - Lisa Ring - Best Choice - DSA Member

District 7 - Nabilah Islam - Endorsed - *DSA Member*

District 13 - Michael Owens - Endorsed

No Recommendation: District 4, District 5, District 9, District 10, District 12.

Georgia State Elections

Georgia Public Service Commission

District 4 - Daniel Blackman - Best Choice - *DSA Member*

Georgia House of Representatives

District 35 - Elizabeth Webster - Best Choice - *DSA Member*

District 42 - Asher Nuckolls - Best Choice - *DSA Member*

District 57 - Kyle Lamont - Best Choice - *DSA Member*

District 84 - Renitta Shannon - Best Choice

District 89 - Bee Nguyen - Best Choice

District 111 - El-Mahdi Holly - Best Choice

Georgia State Senate

District 38 - Devin Barrington Ward - Best Choice - *DSA Member*

No Recommendation: State House Districts 39, 46, 49, 53, 55, 56, 65, 74, 78, 83, 86, 90, 93, 99, 104, 106, 113, 128, 132, 134, 145, 153, 163, 164, 165, 177. State Senate Districts 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 26, 30, 37, 39, 41, 44, 45, 48

Metro Atlanta County Elections

Fulton County District Attorney

Christian Wise-Smith - Best Choice

Dekalb County District 6 Commissioner

Maryam Ahmad - Best Choice

Ted Terry - Best Choice

Cobb County District 4 Commissioner

Edwin Mendez - Best Choice

Gwinnett County Sheriff

Curtis Clemons - Best Choice

Cobb County Sheriff

Jimmy Herndon - Best Choice

FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Think Washington DC. Our federal government has three branches: Legislative, Executive and Judicial. Electing a president every four years to head the executive branch, and by electing our federal legislators, called the U.S. Congress, every two years.

Executive branch: We can still vote for Bernie in the primary, in order to maximize the impact of our agenda.

Legislative branch: The U.S. Congress consists of two chambers: The House of Representatives and the Senate.

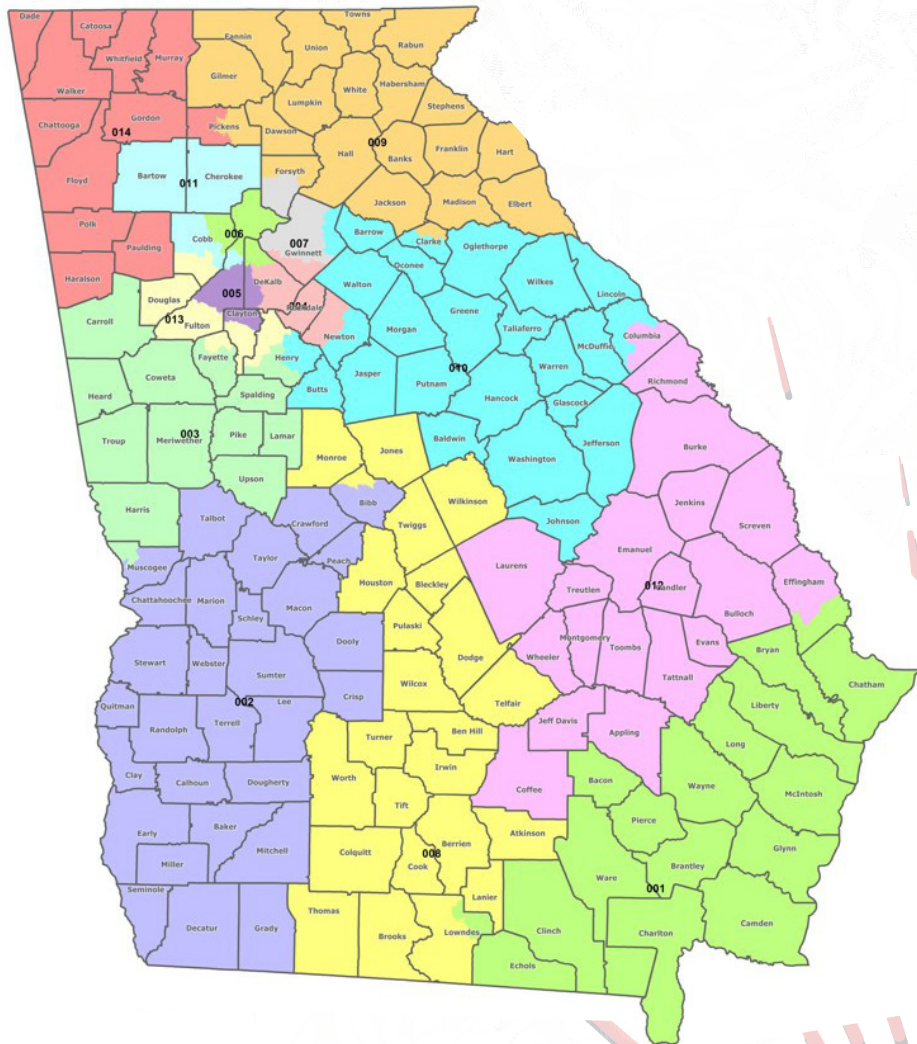
The 435 representatives serve two-year terms. How many each state can elect is based on population as counted by the Census that is held every 10 years — which is one reason why it is crucial to fill out and turn in our Census forms. This year, Georgia will elect 14 members of the House.

Two senators are elected from each state, serving six-year terms. Each year one-third of the Senate is up for election. Typically a state's two Senate seats are not up for election in the same year, but this year a retirement by our senior senator opened up a second seat, setting up a special election to fill the remainder of his term (currently occupied by the Governor's appointee), in addition to the June 9 primary to select the challenger to incumbent David Perdue.

**“DEMOCRACY is not just
the right to vote; it is the
right to live in dignity”**

NAOMI KLEIN

GEORGIA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

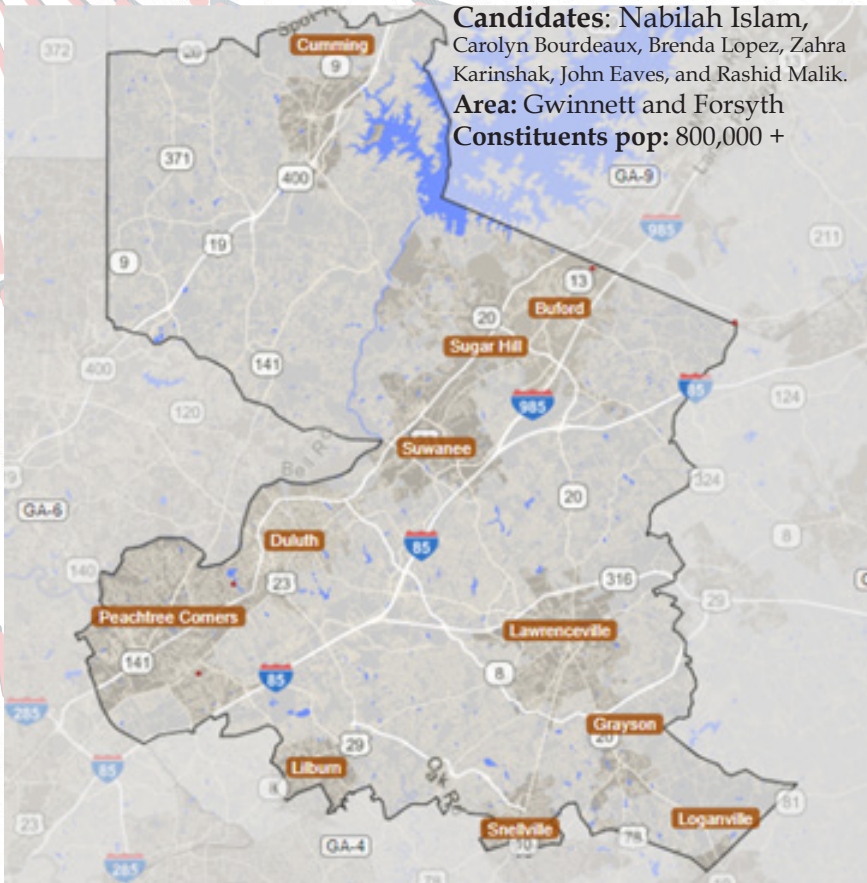


OUR CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

1. Buddy Carter (R)	912-352-0101	8. Austin Scott (R)	478-971-1776
2. Sanford Bishop (D)	229-439-8067	9. Doug Collins (R)	770-297-3388
3. Drew Ferguson (R)	770-683-2033	10. Jody Hice (R)	770-207-1776
4. Hank Johnson (D)	770-987-2291	11. Barry Loudermilk (R)	770-429-1776
5. John Lewis (D)	404-659-0116	12. Rick Allen (R)	706-228-1980
6. Lucy McBath (D)	470-773-6330	13. David Scott (D)	770-432-5405
7. Rob Woodall (R)	770-232-3005	14. Tom Graves (R)	706-226-5320

CONGRESS DISTRICT 7

Candidates: Nabilah Islam, Carolyn Bourdeaux, Brenda Lopez, Zahra Karinshak, John Eaves, and Rashid Malik.
Area: Gwinnett and Forsyth
Constituents pop: 800,000 +





ATL DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS ENDORSE
NABILAH ISLAM
FOR CONGRESS IN GA-7TH DISTRICT

If You're Not At the Table, You're
On the Menu

Website: www.nabilahforcongress.com

Phone: 678-463-5038

DSA Member

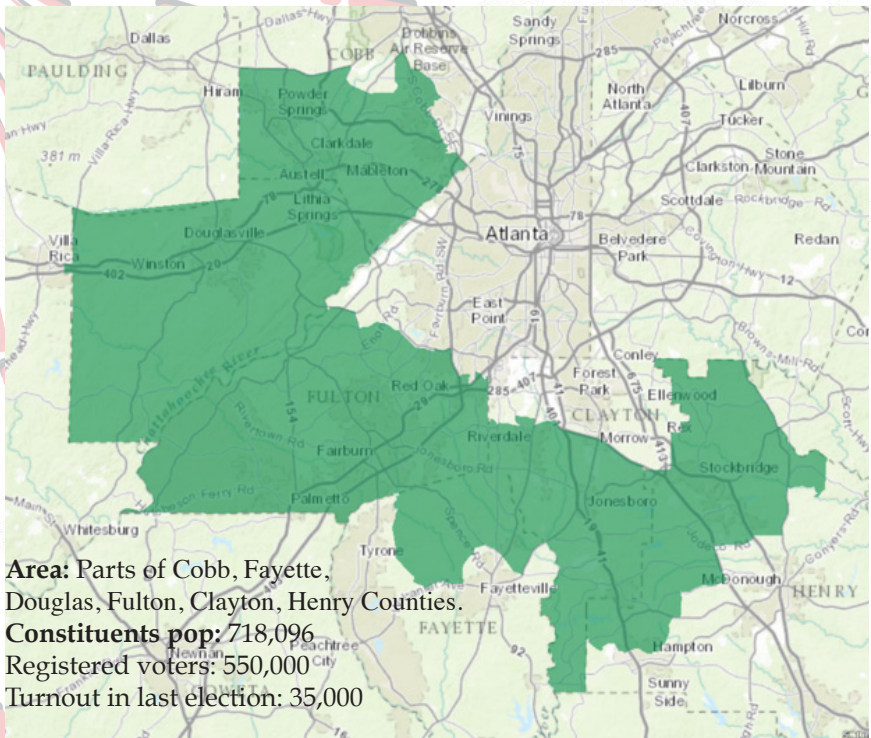
Top 3 Priorities: Medicare for All, economic equity, immigration reform

Endorsements: Voter Protection Project, Brand New Congress, Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, 350 Climate Action, Sunrise Movement-Atlanta, Emgage Action, Matriarch PAC, Blue America PAC, Peace Action, Occupy Democrats, the Pakistani American Community of Atlanta (PAC Atlanta), the Bangladeshi Association of Georgia, and Our Revolution Georgia.

“The reason I fight for Medicare for All, economic equity, and a Green New Deal is that I know it’s only these policies that will lift up working people and people of color. People like my parents.”

NABILAH ISLAM

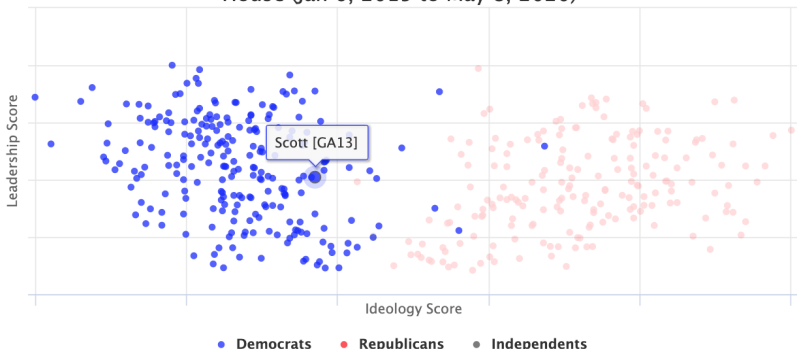
CONGRESS DISTRICT 13



WHY THIS RACE IS IMPORTANT

For three years in a row, Congressman David Scott has topped the Center for Responsibility & Ethics most corrupt congresspeople, taking millions in donations from pharmaceutical companies, big banks and payday lenders. He repeatedly voted to fund corporate bailouts and foreign wars, voted against Same Sex Marriage, and endorsed Republican candidates like Johnny Isakson. According to GovTrack, Scott is a “moderate Democratic follower,” voting with Blue Dog Democrats and the centrist wing of the party (see graphic).

House (Jan 6, 2015 to May 8, 2020)





ATL DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS ENDORSE
MICHAEL OWENS
FOR CONGRESS IN GA-13TH DISTRICT

A New Generation of Democratic
Leadership

Website: www.owensforcongress.com

Phone: 770-815-6091

Email: Michael@owensforcongress.com

Candidates: Michael Owens and 17-year incumbent Rep. David Scott.

Top 3 Priorities: Medicare for All, raising minimum wage to a living wage, working on mass incarceration and system bias in justice system.

Endorsements: Brand New Congress, Sunrise Movement, Common Defence, Our Revolution Cobb County, Women for Justice, over 15 local elected officials.

Volunteer: Reach out directly to the campaign for phone bank and other volunteer opportunities [click here](#).

**“I’M RUNNING BECAUSE OUR
DISTRICT NEEDS A STRONG,
CONSISTENT VOICE FOR THE
PEOPLE.”**

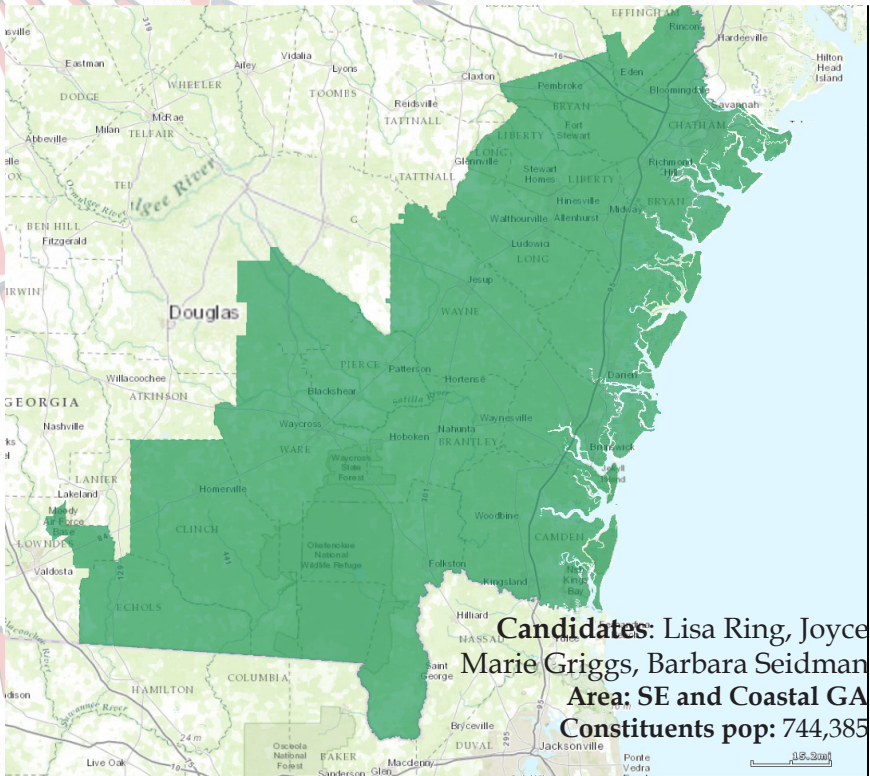
MICHAEL OWENS

REVOLUTION THURSDAYS

MAY 14 & 28: NABILAH ISLAM
MAY 21 & JUN 5: MICHAEL OWENS

Meet & Greet with Candidates, then spend 45 minutes
contacting voters for the June 9 election.

CONGRESS DISTRICT 1



WHY THIS RACE IS IMPORTANT

Incumbent Earl “Buddy” Carter, in office since 2015, is a hardline conservative Republican and Trump apologist. Carter opposes same-sex marriage, abortion rights, marijuana legalization (even for medical uses), and supports oil drilling off Georgia’s coast.

District 1 contains the entirety of Georgia’s coastline. This necessitates, even more than most, a legislator with an understanding of and respect for environmental concerns. Ring supports legislation to transition away from fossil fuels in the form of a Green New Deal. Ring has also taken staunchly progressive positions on a variety of issues, including education (tuition-free college, universal preschool), veterans’ issues (protecting the VA from privatization), and workers’ rights (\$15/hour minimum wage, ending right-to-work in Georgia).



LISA RING

We're All In This Together

Website: www.lisaringforcongress.com

Phone: 912-662-6333

Email: info@lisaringforcongress.com

DSA Member

Area: SE and costal GA

Top 3 Priorities: Medicare for All, climate change and environmental issues, workers' rights and a living wage.

Endorsements: Georgia AFL-CIO, Teamsters Local 728, IAM Local Lodge 2917, Our Revolution, Justice Democrats, , Women for Justice, Georgia Federation of Teachers, Savannah Regional Central Labor Council, Demand Universal Healthcare, Greening Georgia Environmental Caucus, SMART Transportation Division, Sierra Club, National Association of Social Workers, People for the American Way, Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

“My mission is to empower people and to change the whole structure of what we are doing when it comes to government. That our government is something that works for the people and leaves no one behind”

LISA RING

GEORGIA STATE GOVERNMENT

JUDICIAL

Supreme Court
Court of Appeals
Superior Courts
District Attorneys
Judicial Agencies

EXECUTIVE

Constitutional Officers

Governor

LEGISLATIVE

General Assembly
Senate
House of Representatives

Lieutenant Governor
Public Service Commission
State School Superintendent
Secretary of State
Commissioner of Insurance
Attorney General
Commissioner of Agriculture
Commissioner of Labor

Legislative Agencies

Department of Audits and Accounts

Office of Planning and Budget
Governor's Office

Department of Administrative Services
Department of Banking and Finance
Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
Department of Community Affairs
Department of Community Health
Department of Corrections
Department of Defense
Department of Driver Services
Department of Early Care and Learning
Department of Economic Development
Department of Education
Department of Human Services
Department of Juvenile Justice
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Public Health
Department of Public Safety
Department of Public Revenue
Department of Transportation
Department of Veterans Service

Employees' Retirement System of Georgia
Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Georgia Forestry Commission
Georgia Lottery Corporation
Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission
Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Technology Authority
Office of the State Treasurer
State Accounting Office
State Board of Pardons and Paroles
State Board of Workers' Compensation
State Personnel Administration
Technical College System of Georgia
University System of Georgia
Examining and Licensing Boards
Advisory Boards
Other Executive Agencies
Interstate Agencies
Authorities

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DISTRICT 4



Together For Tomorrow

Website: www.Danielforgeorgia.com

Email: danielforgeorgia@gmail.com

Statewide race

of constituents: ~ 5 million rate payers

Primary candidates: Daniel Blackman and John Noel, a former member of Sons of Confederate Veterans.¹

DSA Member

DANIEL BLACKMAN

Top 3 Priorities: Strengthen Utility Assistance, Closing the Technology Gap, and Champion cleaner more efficient energy solutions

Why This Race Is Important: The Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) has the exclusive power to set utility rates. As we fight for a Green New Deal and publicly owned utilities, an ally on the PSC that will advocate for working people can be a tremendous help in the short term.

"You deserve a fearless voice on Georgia's Public Service Commission. A voice that will fight for working families and senior citizens. A voice that will not be in the pocket of the fossil fuel industry. A voice that will stand up for our neighbors in coastal, rural, urban and mountainous Georgia, and protect the health of our families, our climate, and our democracy. I would be honored to be your voice on the Public Service Commission."

1. "Nashville Native Noel Defeats Incumbant" Nashville Post. <https://www.nashvillepost.com/home/article/20444738/nashville-native-noel-defeats-incumbent-in-closely-watched-georgia-house-race>

GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Georgia General Assembly, A.K.A. the State Legislature is perhaps the central point of political power in Georgia. Almost everything you hate about Georgia can be traced to this elected body, but we can get one step closer to fixing those problems by electing socialists and progressives to office.

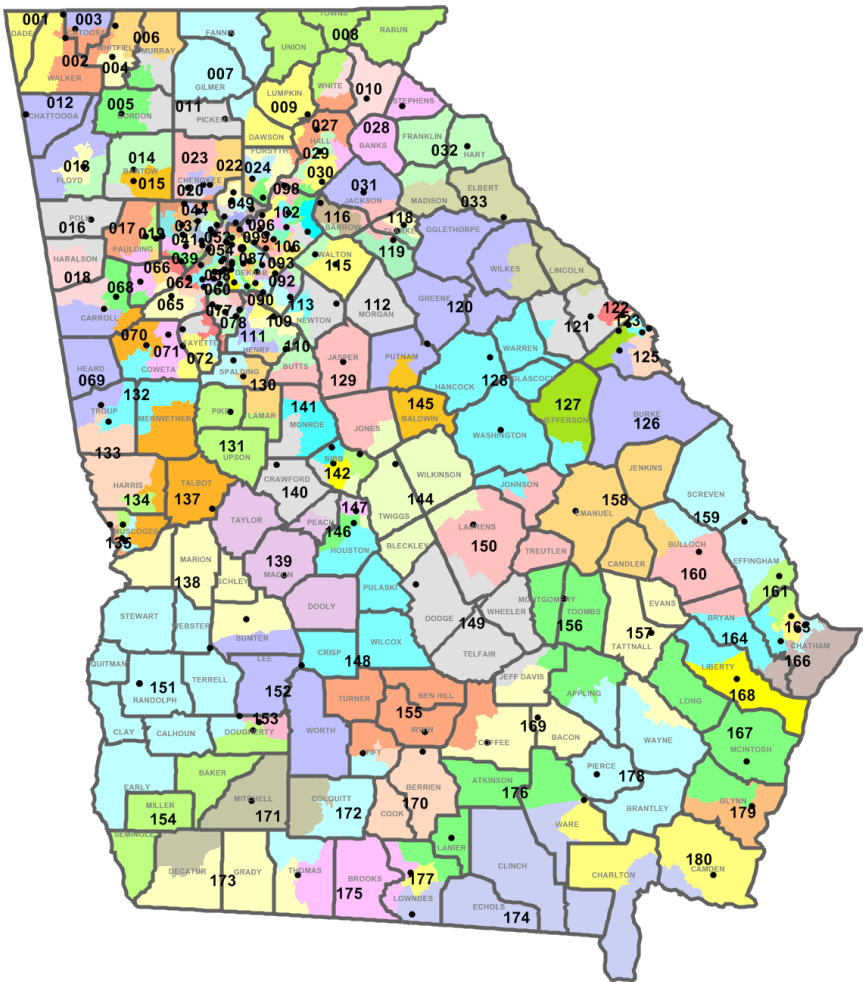
According to [Georgia's State Constitution](#), the Georgia General Assembly is composed of two houses, just like the U.S. Congress. Georgia's House of Representatives was created in 1777 during the [American Revolution](#), making it older than [Congress](#).

There are currently 180 State House representatives. Because House districts (HDs) are smaller (around 56,000 constituents per representatives), the House is sometimes referred to as the lower house in the legislature. Smaller districts are supposed to ensure residents get more time with their representatives; so House reps prefer to refer to the State House as "the People's House." Legislative districts are redrawn every 10 years, according to the United States Census. [Those elected to the Georgia General Assembly this year will draw the legislative maps used for the next 10 years](#) – including congressional districts as well as State House and Senate districts.

The Senate is composed of 56 members. Senate districts are larger, with nearly 173,000 constituents per representatives. In most legislative branches of government, the Senate is considered to be a less partisan and more deliberative body, for two main reasons:

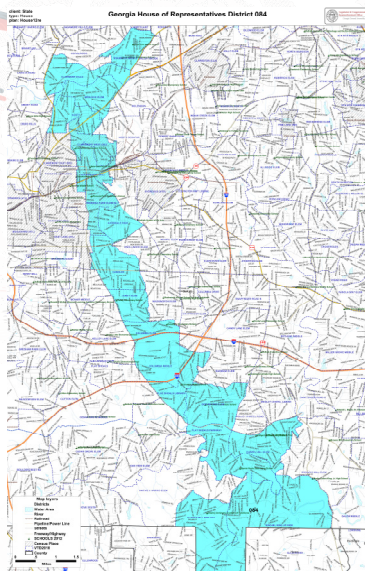
- a. Senate districts are larger (and therefore harder to gerrymander)
- b. In most bodies, senators serve longer terms, with more time to pass legislation before they must begin campaigning for re-election.

However, Georgia senators are elected for two-year terms, just like State House members. State House representatives must be at least 21 years old; senators must be at least 25 years old. Both must be citizens of the United States and a resident of Georgia for two years and their senatorial district for one year (preceding the election). Both State House representatives and state senators are elected on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even-numbered years.



Georgia State legislators make \$17,342 per year, [far below the national average of \\$48,280 per year](#). [insert graphic, salary spectrum?] Studies published in [2000](#) and [2004](#) found that the state legislatures that meet longer and give their legislators more resources (both in terms of staff and salary) [are more efficient](#), passing a greater percentage of bills overall and enacting more bills per legislative day. [They have more contact with](#) constituents and [are more attentive to their concerns](#). They are also [more likely to write their own legislation](#), as opposed to presenting legislation written by outside lobbyists. Low-paying legislatures tend to be less diverse, with [fewer working-class representatives](#) and more lawmakers who are retired or have high-paying jobs that do not require them to be present at work every day.

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 84



RENITTA SHANNON

Justice Politics

Website: www.renittashannon.com

Phone: 404-656-7859

email: renitta.shannon@house.ga.gov

Candidates: Renitta Shannon (Incumbent) and Harmel Codi

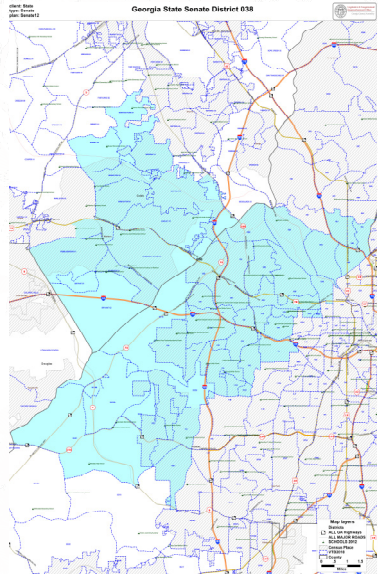
Top 3 Priorities: A living wage, healthcare, and criminal justice reform.

Endorsements: Teamster Local 728, AFSCME, Painters and Allies Trades International Union, UFCW, Working Families Party, Bold Progressives, Georgia Equality, Georgia Stonewall Democrats, and Atlanta Progressive News.

“It is wrong for corporations to grow at the expense of workers being made to live in poverty. Working people are the majority in this country and it’s long past time that economic policies reflect our priorities.”

RENITTA SHANNON

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 38



DEVIN BARRINGTON WARD

Our Issues, Our Future

Website: www.devinforstatesenate.com

DSA Member

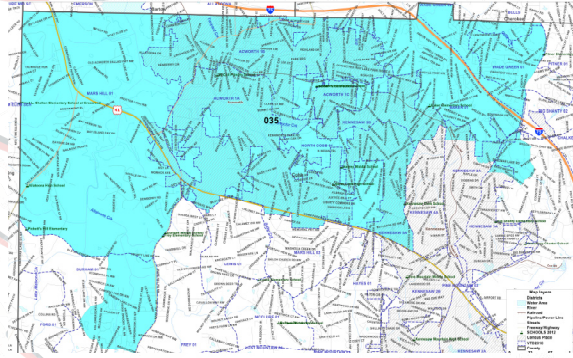
Top 3 Priorities: Affordable housing, criminal justice reform, healthcare reform

Organizational Allies: [BYP100](#), [BlackLivesMatter](#), [Southerners on New Ground \(SONG\)](#), [Solutions Not Punishment \(SNAPco\)](#), [Racial Justice Action Center](#), [Women on the Rise](#), [Spark Reproductive Justice](#), [Black AIDS Institute](#), [Impulse Group \(AIDS Healthcare Foundation\)](#)

Endorsements: State Rep. Park Cannon

Why This Race Is Important: The economic fallout from the COVID-19 epidemic has exacerbated the effects of income inequality. The state legislature can vote to reinstate rent control ([repealed in 1984](#)) and can reduce the number of years evictions can remain on people's records. Ward, a leader in movements to close the city jail and end cash bail in Atlanta, plans to fight any state funding for new prisons in Georgia. A movement candidate unseating a 22-year incumbent would send a message to entrenched power.

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 35



ELIZABETH WEBSTER

I Was Not Born With A Silver Spoon

Website: www.electelizabethhd35.com

Phone: 770-322-4353

Email: info@electelizabethhd35.com

DSA Member

Top 3 Priorities: Healthcare, labor rights, women's rights

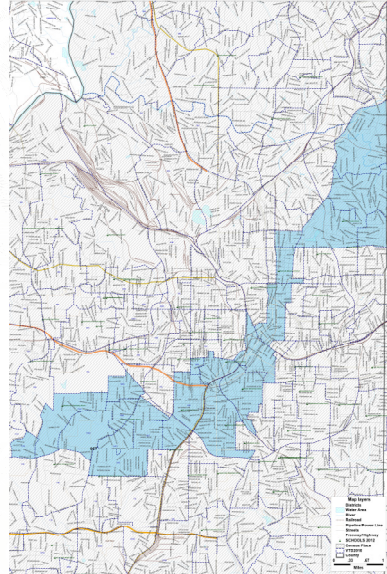
Endorsements: Her Term, Democracy For America, Moms Demand Action, Working Families Party, Vote Pro Choice, Jews Of Color, Rev. Dr. Darrell Elligan

Why This Race Is Important: Setzler's electoral lead in his district has narrowed over the years, dropping from 65% in 2010 to 52% in 2018. The 35th district is increasingly winnable, and Webster's credentials (an MBA in Public Policy and a PhD in Public Health, Epidemiology) uniquely position her to oppose Setzler's anti-woman and anti-science approach. In addition, Webster supports a Green New Deal, raising the minimum wage to at least \$15 an hour, and expanding Medicaid access in the state.

“I’m running to change the political establishment, because government should be by the people and for the people, and not represent a few select voices, but represent all voices.”

ELIZABETH WEBSTER

STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 57



KYLE LAMONT

Together We Thrive

Website: www.kylelamont.com

Phone: 404-655-8537

Email: kyle@kylelamont.com

DSA Member

Top 3 Priorities: Healthcare, education, criminal justice reform

Endorsements: State Rep. Park Cannon

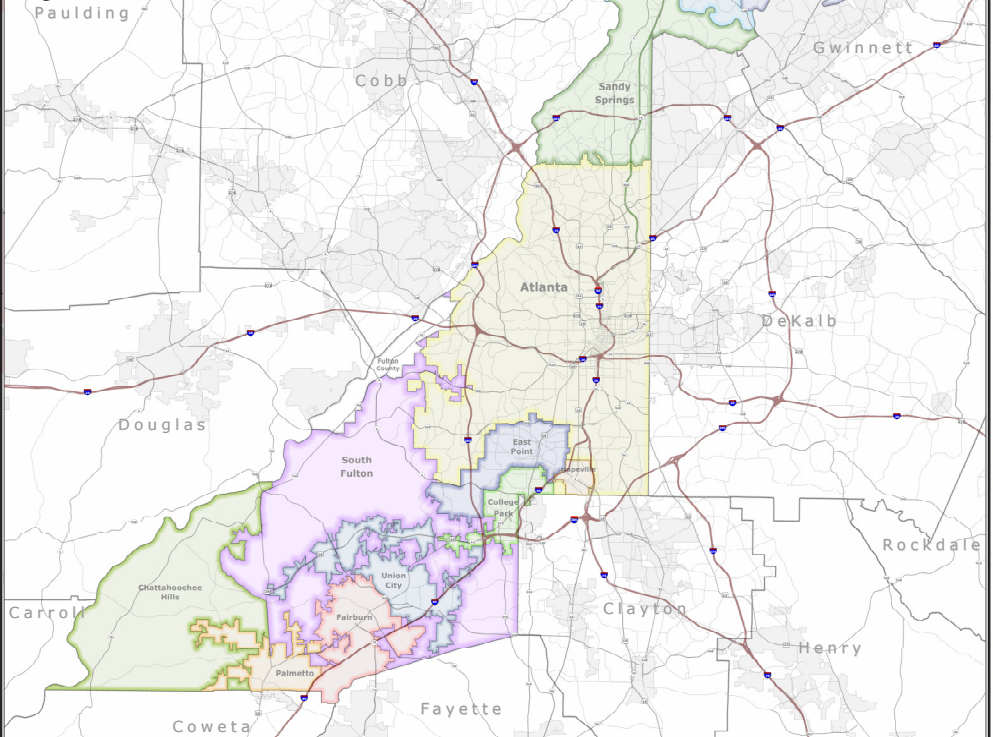
Why This Race Is Important: District 57 runs through the center of Atlanta, an area dense with MADSA members. Having a representative who is from the district with a background in community leadership will go a long way in amplifying what our communities need.

“Our neighborhoods are changing quickly and our homes should be protected from high taxes and developers looking to take advantage.”

KYLE LAMONT

FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Candidates: Christian Wise-Smith, 23-year
incumbent Paul Howard Jr., and
Constituency Pop: 1.064 million
The district attorney is elected to four-year terms
in partisan, circuit-wide races.



WHY THESE RACES ARE IMPORTANT

The Office of the District Attorney (DA) is charged with the prosecution of all felony violations of state law that occur within Fulton County (Atlanta Judicial Circuit). In addition to unincorporated Fulton County, this jurisdiction includes the municipalities of Alpharetta, Atlanta, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Milton, Mountain Park, Palmetto, Roswell, Sandy Springs and Union City.

The DA prosecutes all indictable offenses as well as those that may be charged by accusation and litigates these offenses in both the trial and appellate courts of the State of Georgia. The office is also responsible for prosecuting felony and misdemeanor offenses committed by juveniles. In order to execute these responsibilities, as well as other duties required of the DA by law, the office currently retains a staff of 100 assistant district attorneys and additional 143 staff members including investigators, victim advocates, and administrative personnel.

FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



CHRISTIAN WISE-SMITH

Website: www.wisesmithforfulton.com

Phone: 404-422-9119

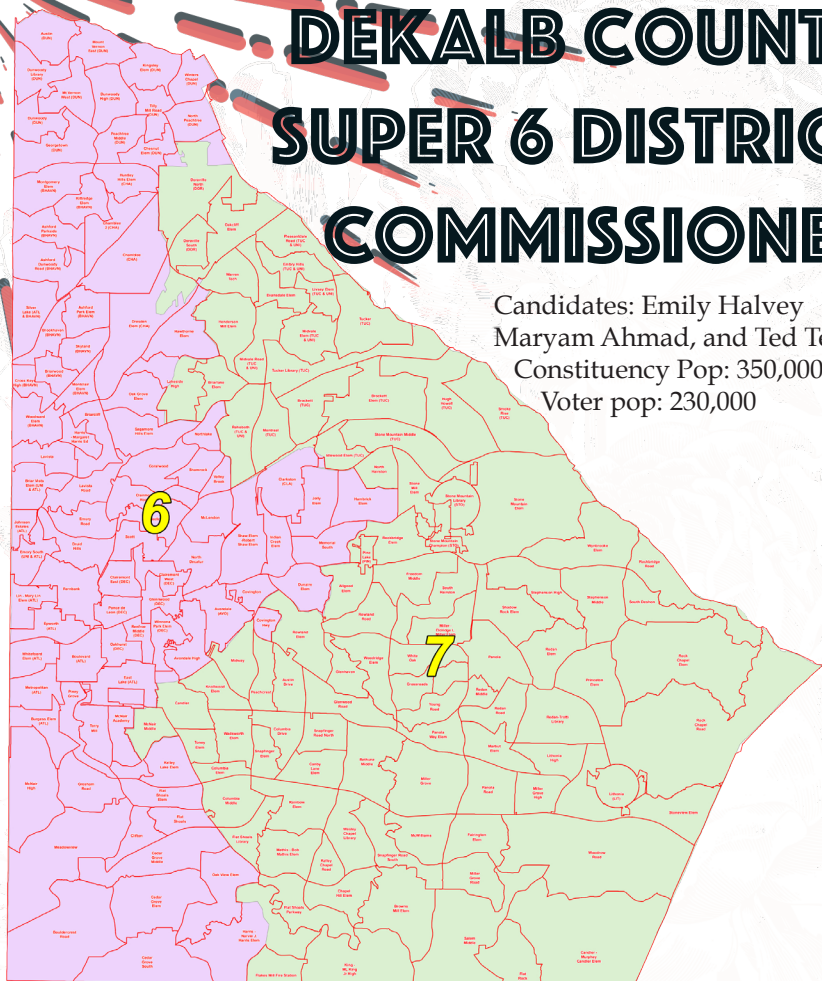
Email: christian@wisesmithforfulton.com

Top 3 Issues: Ending cash bail, partnering with public school system to end school-prison pipeline, no longer prosecuting marijuana/right the wrongs of war on drugs

"I'm running because I grew up in the justice system, other candidates did not. My mom lost custody of me and I lost a friend at 17 who was killed. Overcoming all of that, I can connect on a deeper level with the root causes of crime, giving me a clearer image of how to deal with these issues. Most progressive candidate running and not afraid of taking on industries fuelling crime, such as bail bonds and probation/paroles, as well as private prison system. The foundation of my movement is to create a system that values people more than conviction rates, money and statistics."

DEKALB COUNTY SUPER 6 DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

Candidates: Emily Halvey
Maryam Ahmad, and Ted Terry
Constituency Pop: 350,000
Voter pop: 230,000



DE K A L B County government is made up of two separate offices: The legislative Board of Commissioners (BOC) and the administrative Chief Executive Officer. The BOC functions as the county's primary legislative and policy-making body. The BOC is made up of seven members, five elected from individual districts and two elected from super districts that make up about half of the county's population.

ALTHOUGH there has not been any formal chapter candidate endorsement in this race, we do advise to vote against the candidate not featured that describes themselves as a "smart development advocate", a euphemism for developer deals and gentrification.



MARYAM AHMAD

Health First!

Website: maryamfordekalb.com

Phone: 404-500-6673

email: friendsofmaryam@gmail.com

Top 3 Priorities: Community input in policy, collaboration with commissioners, and public infrastructure.

"A community is only as healthy as its most underprivileged neighborhood. For years the health of a community has been reduced to physical health only, even though we thoroughly understand there are underlying social or communal issues that lead to most preventable health issues... We intend to stop this cycle and begin building healthy communities from the underlying factors upwards."

Endorsements: Brother Haroun (Streetroomers), Mayor Awet Eyasu (Clarkston), City Council members Laura Hopkins and Debra Johnson (Clarkston).



TED TERRY

New Energy, New Ideas, Moving Dekalb Forward

Website: tedfordekalb.com

Phone: 912-508-5538

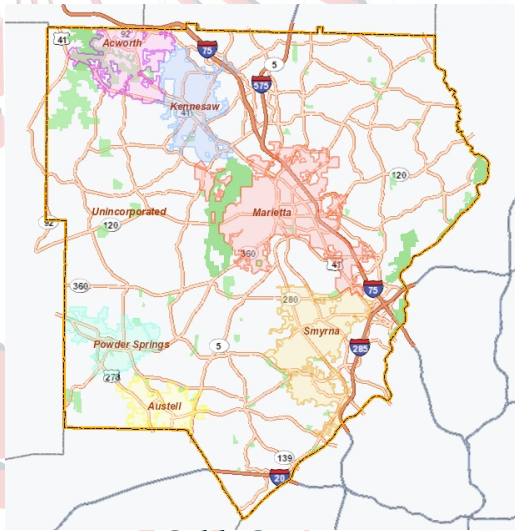
email: ted@tedfordekalb.com

Top 3 Priorities: Inclusion, environment, and housing.

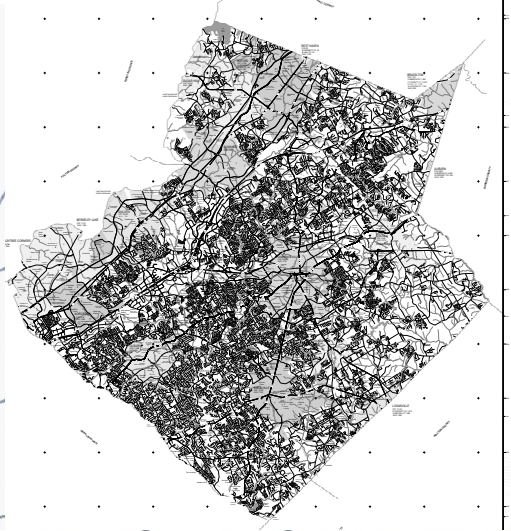
"In Clarkston we created an affordable housing trust that we can use for down payment assistance, rent assistance, housing renovations and energy efficiency upgrades. We are currently also reviewing an addition to our non-discrimination ordinance to include source of income in housing. I will push forward these reforms and others at the county level in the same way we did in Clarkston."

Endorsements: The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS), Felicia A. Moore (Atlanta City Council President), and Killer Mike.

COBB AND GWINNETT COUNTY SHERIFF AND THE FIGHT AGAINST 287G



Cobb County



Gwinnett County

WHAT IS THE 287(G) PROGRAM?

Under the 287(g) program, the Department of Homeland Security deputizes local law enforcement to carry out the work of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, essentially making local cops part of the federal government's immigrant detention and deportation machinery. In Georgia, sheriffs' departments have the power to invoke the 287(g) program, granting themselves powers that further harm immigrant communities.

The 287(g) program allows local law enforcement to investigate the immigration status of people at the jail, have access to ICE databases, and issuing ICE detainers and hold individuals after the time they're eligible for release, and place individuals in removal proceedings.

Gwinnett in particular is the #1 jurisdiction in the country in feeding ICE's detention and deportation pipeline through the 287(g) program, which makes it much easier for people arrested on minor traffic charges to be transferred to ICE for deportation, and which a new sheriff could simply end.

For more information on the 287(g) program, from [Project South](#).

WHY THESE RACES ARE IMPORTANT

The sheriffs elections offer an opportunity for MADSA to deepen its ties with the Latinx immigrant rights movement and allies in fighting 287(g). Right now Gwinnett and Cobb counties are major focuses of the movement, because of the importance of the 287(g) issue in this year's elections. The victimization of undocumented immigrants through 287(g) and other programs undermines the rights of all of us as working people.

AGAINST THE 287(G) PROGRAM?

GWINNETT



Curtis Clemons

Let's be clear, I do not support the 287 (g) program. I unequivocally reject the discriminatory and expensive ICE deportation program that the current sheriff's administration renewed in May of 2019.

Floyd Scott

Against 287(g), but calls for a program "like it in place."

Keybo Taylor

Against 287(g), "should be dealt with at a federal level."

Ben Haynes

Calls for limits to 287(g), not ending the program.

Lou Solis

In favor of 287(g).



Jimmy Herndon

I will end the 287(g) agreement which wastes taxpayer resources and has targeted people of color in Cobb.



Craig Owens

End the office's participation in the 287(g) program and use the savings to retain and attract more deputies.

Gregory Gilstrap

Has no stated 287(g) position.

Neil Warren

Incumbent in favor of 287(g).

For more information on candidate positions, check out [GLAHR's Soy Georgia](#) campaign and candidate responses to GLAHR, [Mijente and SONG \(Southerners On New Ground\)](#).

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR LOCAL OFFICE?

Here Are Your First Steps

STEP 1: Do Your RESEARCH.

Many people want to run for office because they want to make a difference in their community. If this is you, ask yourself these two questions:

- 1) What specifically do you want to change or improve?**
- 2) Which elected offices impact the issues you care about?**

If you want to improve the schools in your community or change the laws regarding child support, running for city council is probably not a good fit for you. Schools are governed by your local school board. Many of the laws regarding children and families are made in the state legislature.

Once you have figured out where in government you want to have an impact, you should study how that office works. Find out when and where your local city council, school board, county or public service commission, etc. meets and begin attending their meetings regularly. If you cannot make the meetings, you can usually find them online. Many local governments post videos of their meetings to YouTube.

By attending regular meetings of the governing body you want to join, not only will you learn exactly how that governing body makes decisions and the issues with which they are currently grappling, you will also get to see how people who are currently elected to that body govern themselves. Remember, you cannot get into elected office without running against or replacing someone who is already there!

Unsure of Who Your Local Elected Officials Are?

Then this is where your research begins! Several national organizations, such as [Vote Smart](#) and [Common Cause](#), have search tools that help you find your local elected officials and legislative districts. Orga-

nizations like the [New Georgia Project](#) are developing mobile phone apps that give detailed information on your local electeds — including who their top campaign donors are!

Common Cause: Find Your Local Elected Officials

Find Your Government Districts in Fulton County

After attending a few meetings, you may find that you have much to learn before you are ready to run for office. One of the best ways to learn how an elected office works is to volunteer for an elected official whose ideas or governing style you admire.

Most governing bodies also have working groups or committees focused on a particular issue (e.g., city zoning board of appeals, parks advisory board, or the school board's textbook review committee). Volunteer for one of these groups to develop your expertise on issues that matter to you.

You may learn that assisting elected officials satisfies your calling to improve your community. If you decide to run for office after doing these things, you will be a more knowledgeable (and respected) candidate.

Step 2: Work on Someone Else's Campaign

These days, everyone with 2,000 Facebook friends believes they are popular enough to run for office. But campaigning for office is more than a popularity contest. (Many candidates have learned the hard way that 1,900 of their 2,000 friends cannot vote for them because they do not live in the same district; and of the remaining 100, half are not even registered to vote!)

There is a science to running a winning campaign. The best way to study this subject is to work on a campaign. Whether your candidate wins or loses, you will gain invaluable, behind-the-scenes experience and be introduced to a universe of field directors and other consultants who work on campaigns for a living.

STEP 3: Discuss Running for Office With Your Family... and Your Employer

Running for elected office can be costly and time-consuming. Even in small towns, running a winning city council or school board campaign can cost \$10,000. Regardless of the size of your race, you will certainly spend the last 2-4 weeks of your campaign working around the clock.

Your personal life and the personal lives of your loved ones will come under strict scrutiny, including on all of your social media. This can be very hard for children or spouses who may not share your enthusiasm to be a public figure.

If you already have a full-time job, you should plan on missing *several* days of work during your campaign. If you have a family, you should plan on missing many important events (birthdays, weddings, school plays) during your campaign.

Winning your race only ensures your sacrifices will continue. Though classified as a “part-time” job, being a local elected can be all-consuming. In addition to the regular meetings of your elected body, you will be called on to meet with leaders of other elected bodies and with the business community. You may be required to attend out-of-town trainings for elected officials; be invited to attend homeowners’ association meetings, school, church and other community events; and be expected to respond to emergencies such as the scene of a shocking local crime or a town hall about low student test scores.

In order to accommodate your new public schedule, you may have to reduce the hours you work at your current job — or resign altogether!

Most local elected offices pay very little. Georgia’s capitol city, Atlanta, is currently the only city in the state that pays its city council a salary of more than \$25,000 per year. (Atlanta’s new twin city — City of South Fulton, is considering a salary increase for its city council.) Georgia’s

state representatives are only paid \$17,000 per year.

The low salary of Georgia's elected officials is one reason that so many of them are older (retired from other jobs) or are already wealthy when they enter office. Increasing the salaries of elected officials could encourage more regular people to run for office.

Until things change, a person considering running for elected office must make a plan for handling such a large time commitment on such a small salary. If you are thinking of running for office, this is something you should talk through with your family.

STEP 4: Declaration of Intent (DOI)

If you decide to take the leap to run for office, filing a Declaration of Intent (DOI) is how you make your decision official. You can always change your mind and drop out of the race after you have filed a DOI, but this is a required step to start.

In Georgia, you must file a DOI before you begin collecting any campaign donations!

A DOI form can be obtained from, and filed with, the clerk's office of the municipality in which you are running for elected office. Click the links below to find the clerk's office for the City of South Fulton and the Fulton County Board of Elections.

There are deadlines to declare your intent to run. Your local clerk can tell you when these are.

City of South Fulton Clerk's Office

Phone Number: (470) 809-7712

Fulton County Board of Elections

Phone Number: (404) 612-7020

STEP 5: Qualifying

Qualifying period: Though you may begin campaigning informally before this period, this is the time in which elections officials will formally confirm that you meet all the qualifications to run for the elected office you are seeking.

The requirements to run for state and county offices are set by [Georgia's Secretary of State \(S.O.S.\)](#).

The requirements to run for city council or school board are set by each individual municipality. Contact your city clerk, or the elected body's secretary, to learn all the qualifications necessary to run. The basic requirements for most city and state offices in Georgia are that you are a citizen of the U.S. and have lived for at least 12 months in the district where you are running for office.

Georgia Secretary of State (S.O.S.) Qualifying Rules

Qualifying Fee: This is the fee you must pay to certify your eligibility. In other words it's an application fee. For most offices in Georgia, this fee is set at 3 percent of the salary of the office which you are seeking.

The Qualifying Fee for the Fulton County Commission is currently \$1,050.

The Qualifying Fee for South Fulton's City Council is currently \$390

Pauper's Affidavit (Financial aid for Qualifying Fees)

A Pauper's Affidavit can be filed by low-income persons to waive their Qualifying Fee. This form usually requires several signatures from residents of your district. Officials will review the affidavit and make a decision about whether or not to waive your Qualifying Fee. Contact your County's Board of Elections to learn more about this process.

STEP 6: Personal and Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports

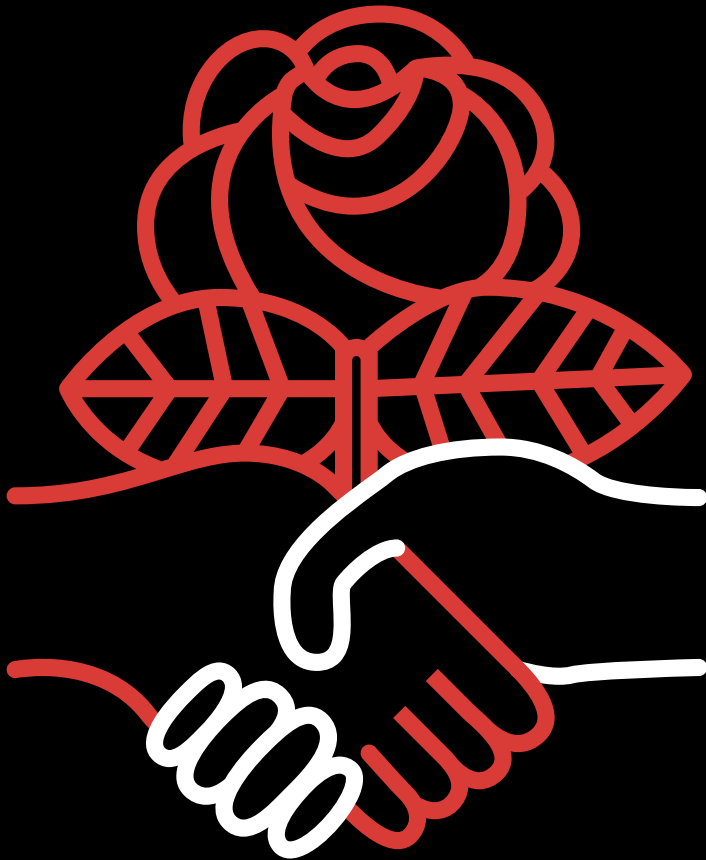
As previously stated, running for local elected office can be very expensive, especially in densely-populated counties in urban areas, or in a city as large as the City of South Fulton. In 2017, candidates for South Fulton's City Council spent an average of \$20,000 each to run for office.

In order to ensure that candidates running for office are not funding their campaigns with foreign or illegal money, and to ensure that the money raised by candidates is spent only for campaigning or governing (and not their personal expenses), those running for office must file Personal and Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports (PFDs and CCDRs). These reports must be filed multiple times throughout the campaign and after the campaign is over — even if you do not win elected office.

Candidates cannot receive more than a set amount of money from any one person or company — even if contributions are split over multiple donations. The *Maximum Individual Contribution Limit* varies depending on what office you are running for. **For many of Georgia's local elected offices, the *Maximum Individual Contribution Limit* is \$2800 for the initial election; and another \$1500 if you are in a runoff election.**

Campaign finance rules for all city, county and state offices are set by the [Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission \(a.k.a. Ethics Commission\)](#). Contact them to obtain campaign finance forms and to receive in-depth training on these issues and more.

Democratic Socialists of America



About Us

Metro Atlanta Democratic Socialists of America is one of some 200 local Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) chapters, organizing committees and youth chapters in the U.S. (www.dsausa.org), with a rapidly growing membership. As democratic socialists, we envision a society and a world where resources are democratically controlled to benefit all. In pursuing this goal, we educate the public about socialist values and policies and build progressive coalitions committed to fighting for economic and social justice. DSA is an educational organization (501(c)4), not a political party.

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