

# Wayne County Voters: Meet Your May 19 Primary Candidates

**Early Voting: April 27 – May 15**

**Election Day: May 19**

**Saturday Voting Available: May 2 & May 9**

*All early and Saturday voting will be held at the Wayne County Election Office, 306 E Pine Street, from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM*

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## About this Guide

The Wayne County Chamber of Commerce is committed to keeping our community informed and engaged in the election process.

All qualified candidates who provided an email address to the Georgia Secretary of State's office were invited to submit a photo and statement for publication.

The information below is presented as submitted and has not been edited for content. Candidates are organized by office and ballot for ease of review.

Candidates who did not submit a statement are listed by name only.

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## U.S. Senate

### Republican Ballot

#### Derek Dooley

Republican Candidate for U.S. Senate

*(Statement Provided)*



I'm running for U.S. Senate because Georgia deserves a fighter — not another career politician chasing their next promotion or celebrity status.

I was born and raised in Athens, the son of a man who coached the Bulldogs and served this state for over 50 years. I went to Clarke Central, walked on at the University of Virginia, came home to earn my law degree at UGA, and spent three decades coaching college football and the NFL — including nine years with Nick Saban. I've led young men from every background and worked every day to open doors for their future.

I'm not part of the political establishment. I don't want to be. What I want is to bring Georgia common sense to Washington — to work with President Trump to get his agenda done, and to make sure your voice is the one being heard in the Senate, not the lobbyists, not the donors, not the media.

Football taught me that leadership matters and that you keep fighting no matter what. That's the American Spirit. And that's exactly what I'll bring to the U.S. Senate.

I will always put Georgia First — and I will never stop fighting for you.

### **Additional candidates (no statement):**

#### **Republican:**

- Earl “Buddy” Carter
- Mike Collins
- John F Coyne III
- Jonathan “Jon” McColum

#### **Democratic:**

- Jon Ossoff
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## **Governor**

### **Republican Ballot**

#### **Chris Carr**

Republican Candidate for Governor

*(Statement Provided)*



I'm running for Governor because Georgia needs a conservative leader who delivers results, and I'm the only candidate in this race with the record to prove it. As Attorney General, I've made public safety the priority, stood with law enforcement, taken on gangs, cartels, and human traffickers, and fought to make crime illegal again. I'm running to keep Georgia safe, strong, and moving forward.

My plan is straightforward. Lower property taxes. Cut the income tax in half. Back small businesses. Create jobs. And keep Georgia the number one state for business. That didn't happen by accident. We earned it by making the right choices, and we need to keep doing that so Georgia remains the best place in America to live, work, and raise a family. This race is about who can win in November, and I'm the conservative with the record and the support to do it. I'd be honored to earn your vote.

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## Democratic Ballot

### Keisha Lance Bottoms

Democratic Candidate for Governor

*(Statement Provided)*



I'm running for governor to lower costs, create good-paying jobs, expand access to healthcare, education and technical college training, support small businesses, and work with local organizations like the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce to grow opportunity in every part of Georgia. I am a battle-tested executive with a strong record of bringing investment and jobs to Georgia communities. As Mayor of Atlanta, I helped bring in nine Fortune 500 companies, attract \$4.5 billion in capital investment, support small businesses, and create thousands of jobs.

As governor, I will make supporting small businesses a bigger priority in state government and ensure communities like Wayne County have the tools they need to compete and grow. That means standing with the farmers, timber producers, and landowners who are such an important part of this region's economy, helping families keep land in family hands, and expanding opportunity in the industries that already do so much to sustain local jobs and communities. It also means protecting Georgia's ports in Brunswick and Savannah from chaotic policies coming out of Washington that are raising prices for families and creating uncertainty for employers in Wayne County and across coastal Georgia.

I will also invest in the building blocks of long-term growth. That means supporting infrastructure like the Wayne Commerce Center, investing in workforce training, and moving toward free technical and community college so institutions like Coastal Pines Technical College in Jesup can help more Georgians gain the skills they need for in-demand jobs. It also means expanding Medicaid and strengthening rural health care to help prevent more cuts like the recent reductions to labor and delivery services at Wayne Memorial Hospital. Expanding Medicaid will lower costs for more Wayne County residents and benefit the whole region by protecting hospitals from closing and keeping care closer to where residents live.

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### Geoff Duncan

Democratic Candidate for Governor

*(Statement Provided)*



I am running for Governor because I believe Georgia's best days are in front of us, but only if we all can participate. I may not have always gotten things right, but as a former legislator and the former Lieutenant Governor, I am proud of the bipartisan efforts on passing bills like the rural healthcare tax credit - which has since raised more than \$500 million for 54 rural hospitals - and the hate crimes legislation.

In this race, I am focused on tackling the three issues that matter the most to Georgians across the state including the affordability crisis, the health care crisis, and the Donald Trump crisis. I want to take 10% of the state's rainy day fund (~\$1.7 billion) to create a Jumpstart Fund to invest in practical solutions that lower everyday expenses, expand childcare access, and make housing more attainable. At the same time, we must address Georgia's healthcare crisis by expanding Medicaid, strengthening rural hospitals, improving mental health services, and ensuring mothers and families can access the care they need. On Day One as governor, I

will sign an executive order that clarifies that doctors can practice medicine without fear of prosecution and introduce legislation to repeal the 6-week abortion ban.

In 2020, when Donald Trump tried to steal your vote, I stood up to him, even when it meant death threats for my family. But I would do it all over again, because it was the right thing to do. Now Trump is driving our economy into the ground and enriching himself on the backs of hardworking Georgians. As Governor, I will always stand up to Donald Trump. I've done it before and I will do it again. But second place trophies won't solve any of these issues. It's been nearly 30 years since a Democrat has won and I am the only one in this race who can build the coalition necessary to win this race in November.

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### **Jason Esteves**

Democratic Candidate for Governor

*(Statement Provided)*



My name is Jason Esteves and I'm running to be Governor of Georgia because I'm tired of Georgians working harder than ever, and still struggling to get by. As governor, I'll focus on your health, wealth, and opportunity by expanding Medicaid, making housing more affordable, and making historic investments in our education system.

My story started in Columbus, Georgia, where I was raised by two parents who didn't go to college but taught me everything I needed to know-- To work hard, love my God, serve others, and leave my community better than I found it. My upbringing gave me the tools to become an attorney and small business owner with my wife before joining the Atlanta School Board and the State Senate, where I fought for everyday Georgians. I believe my experience in life, business, and public service make me uniquely qualified to build the coalition we'll need to win in November and deliver new leadership for the people of Georgia.

I would greatly appreciate your support on the campaign. You can find more information about my platform online at [jasonestev.es.com](http://jasonestev.es.com).

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### **Derrick Jackson**

Democratic Candidate for Governor

*(Statement Provided)*



I am a 22-year Navy veteran, a State Representative for Georgia's 68th District, and a candidate for Governor. But before I tell you about my qualifications, I want to tell you why I'm running.

My first wife died of breast cancer. She was a brilliant, beautiful woman who deserved better healthcare than what Georgia gave her. Recently, my daughter told me something that broke my heart: she's afraid to have children in Georgia because of our state's maternal mortality crisis.

Black women in Georgia are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white women. I am running for Governor because I refuse to accept that my daughter, or any woman in Georgia, should have to live with that fear.

#### My Commitment to Georgia:

I have spent my life in service. Twenty-two years in the Navy taught me discipline, leadership, and the importance of mission execution. As a State Representative, I've fought for healthcare access, voting rights, and economic opportunity. As a former corporate general manager and adjunct professor at Georgia Piedmont Technical College, I understand what it takes to build systems that work for everyone, not just the wealthy and well-connected.

#### What I Will Fight For as Governor:

- **Healthcare Access:** Expand Medicaid, address the maternal mortality crisis, and ensure every Georgian, whether in Atlanta or Wayne County, has access to quality, affordable healthcare.
- **Economic Opportunity:** Raise the minimum wage, support small businesses, invest in workforce development, and bring good-paying jobs to rural Georgia.
- **Voting Rights:** Protect and expand access to the ballot box for all Georgians.
- **Education:** Fully fund public schools, increase teacher pay, and make community college tuition-free.
- **Rural Georgia:** Invest in infrastructure, broadband access, and economic development in communities like Wayne County that have been left behind.

#### My Vision:

I am not running to fit into a broken system. I am running to build a better one, a Georgia where no family has to lose someone they love the way I lost my wife. A Georgia where women don't have to be afraid to have children. A Georgia where hard work is rewarded with a living wage, quality healthcare, and the opportunity to thrive.

On May 19th, I humbly ask for your vote.

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### **Michael “Mike” Thurmond**

Democratic Candidate for Governor

*(Statement Provided)*

My journey to public service started on a dead-end dirt road in rural Clarke County. Growing up on my father's farm, I learned the value of family and hard work and the importance of a community that supports its own.

I was fortunate enough to attend public schools, graduate from college and eventually serve this great state as a legislator, Labor Commissioner, state director of the Department of Family and Children's Services, superintendent of DeKalb County Schools and CEO of DeKalb County. I know what it means to put boots on the ground all across Georgia.

Recently, I had the privilege of campaigning in Jesup and Wayne County, speaking directly with folks who want a leader who understands their everyday struggles. I am running for Governor because I believe every Georgian deserves the opportunity to succeed, and I will ensure that Wayne County and southeast Georgia are not drowned out by the political noise and influence of metro Atlanta.

Right now, there is a desperate need for a turnaround in Georgia. Working families are sitting down every night trying to make impossible kitchen-table decisions. We are grappling with rising mortgage payments, higher

grocery bills and sky-high electric bills, all while affordable health insurance is becoming harder to find for both employers and employees.

Throughout my career, I have built a track record of success by stepping into difficult situations, building coalitions and delivering real results. I am a turnaround expert. Whether restoring accreditation to our public schools, stabilizing a struggling county government or helping hundreds of thousands of Georgians find work during tough economic times, my focus has always been on fixing broken systems and delivering relief to everyday people.

Protecting our communities also means protecting our state resources and the wallets of hardworking citizens. Everyday Georgians are already bearing the burden of unchecked corporate expansion. I am firmly against the rapid proliferation of massive data centers that drain our power grid and our water supply.

Raising utility rates on everyday Georgians to pay for tech billionaires' yachts is unacceptable. I will fight to ensure our economic development benefits local communities, farmers and small businesses, rather than out of state tech giants, keeping our state affordable and prosperous for the people who live and work here.

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**Additional candidates (no statement):**

**Republican:**

- Clark Dean
- Rick Jackson
- Burt Jones
- Gregg Kirkpatrick
- Brad Raffensperger
- Tom Willimas
- Ken Yasger

**Democratic**

- Olu Brown
- Amanda Duffy

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## Lieutenant Governor

### Republican Ballot

**Brenda Lunn Nelson-Porter**

Republican Candidate for Lieutenant Governor

*(Statement Provided)*

As an experienced small research business owner and veteran, I will transfer my managerial skills to the role of Lieutenant Governor to further improve the operations and flow of Georgia. The Constitutional frameworks will help shape the functions of our political bodies, public and private partnerships, government agencies, and higher educational institutions.



I have the capability to influence the creation and elimination of rules, criteria, and legislations, not via practicing law and giving legal advice to the public, but via findings from evidence-based political research via managing our State Study Committees. I have designed the LIEU (LLCs, Institutional Assessments, Election Integrity, and Ultra Learning Initiatives) Model aimed to restore and strengthen Our Republic!

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## Democratic Ballot

### Nabilah Parkes

Democratic Candidate for Lieutenant Governor  
*(Statement Provided)*



I'm running for Lieutenant Governor because Georgia needs a fighter in this moment, and I have a strong track record of taking Republicans head on. My public service has always been about putting Georgians first — finding ways to do the most good for the most people and standing up for what's right.

The Lieutenant Governor has an important role to play in Georgia. It's the second-highest office in the state, with the power to champion legislation and use the platform of the office to shape the direction of our state.

I'm running to lower costs for working families, including common sense tax relief. I'm going to stand up and protect our fundamental freedoms including abortion rights and fair elections. And when Democrats win we're going to expand Medicaid and make health care more affordable.

This position will allow me to fight for Georgia families. As a mom I know how hard so many Georgia families have it right now, and they need a Lieutenant Governor who is going to fight to lower the cost of living, stand up for people's freedoms, expand access to healthcare, and improve our schools.

This campaign is about building a Georgia where every family has the opportunity to thrive. I'm in this race to win, to fight for our families, and to bring real meaningful change to the state of Georgia.

### Additional candidates (no statement):

#### Republican

- David Clark
- Greg Dolezel
- Steve Gooch
- John F. Kennedy
- Takosha Swan
- Blake Tillery

## **Democratic**

- Josh McLaurin
  - Richard N. Wright
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# Secretary of State

## **Additional candidates (no statement):**

### **Republican:**

- Tim Fleming
- Vernon Jones
- Kelvin King
- Ted Metz
- Gaberiel “Gabe” Sterling

### **Democratic:**

- Cam Ashling
  - Dana Barrett
  - Penny Brown Reynolds
  - Adrian Consonery, Jr.
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# Attorney General

## **Republican Ballot**

### **Brian Strickland**

Republican Candidate for Attorney General

*(Statement Provided)*



Brian Strickland is the Republican fighter Georgia families can trust. While others make promises, Brian Strickland has already delivered. From protecting our elections to backing our men and women in blue, Brian is the conservative leader we need as Attorney General to hold the line for Georgia. Brian has the backing of 78 Georgia sheriffs, including Wayne County Sheriff Chuck Moseley. In addition to sheriffs, Brian has been endorsed by 2/3rds of the Republican District Attorneys in our state. Those fighting on the front lines to protect Georgia families trust Brian Strickland to be Georgia's next attorney general.

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## Democratic Ballot

### Tanya Miller

Democratic Candidate for Attorney General

*(Statement Provided)*



I'm Tanya Miller, and I'm running for Attorney General to restore integrity to this office and ensure it works for the people of Georgia—not politics or powerful interests.

I've spent more than 20 years fighting for justice in courtrooms across this state and country. As a former federal prosecutor, I handled complex criminal cases to keep communities safe. As a homicide prosecutor in Fulton County, I secured justice for victims and their families. And as a civil rights attorney, I've held government accountable in cases involving police misconduct and constitutional violations. Today, I represent individuals and working families harmed by negligence and injustice.

As Attorney General, my focus will be clear: protect consumers from fraud and predatory practices, strengthen public safety, uphold civil rights, and ensure equal justice under the law. I will take on corporate bad actors who foster mistrust in our economy and exploit Georgians, defend the integrity of our elections, and use the full authority of the office to promote public safety and accountability.

As Chair of the Georgia House Democratic Caucus, I've led with discipline, built consensus, and fought for policies that reflect our values. I've also seen how the Attorney General's office has too often been used to advance political agendas instead of justice. That must change.

I'm running to be a lawyer for the people—independent, experienced, and unafraid to do what's right. I would be honored to earn your support.

#### **Additional candidates (no statement):**

##### **Republican:**

- Bill Cowsert

##### **Democratic:**

- Robert "Bob" Trammell

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## Commissioner of Agriculture

#### **Additional candidates (no statement):**

##### **Republican:**

- Tyler Harper

**Democratic:**

- Katherine E. Juhan-Arnold
- Sedrick Kent Towe, Jr.

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## Commissioner of Insurance

**Additional candidates (no statement):****Republican:**

- John King

**Democratic:**

- Clarence Blalock
- Thomas Dean
- Ambuj “Aj” Jain
- DeAndre Mathis
- Keshia Sean Waites

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## State School Superintendent

**Republican Ballot****Nelva Lee**

Republican Candidate for State School Superintendent

*(Statement Provided)*



Georgia deserves bold, principled leadership, and I am the only female candidate in this race with proven conservative values and a record of standing firm on them. Our children cannot afford more of the same. The status quo has left us behind, with too many of our students struggling, far too many fourth graders are not proficient in reading, and 76% of our eighth graders are not proficient in math. That is unacceptable.

I believe every family deserves the freedom to choose the best educational path for their child, which is why I will fight to expand School Choice to include all students in Georgia. I also believe that every graduate should leave high school with a pathway to success, which is why I will ensure access to trade school certifications for every student, so they are prepared for real careers, not just diplomas.

It's time for new leadership that puts students first, empowers parents, and prepares the next generation to win.

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## Democratic Ballot

### Anton Anthony

Democratic Candidate for State School Superintendent

*(Statement Provided)*



My name is Dr. Anton Anthony, and I am the proud Superintendent of Hancock County Schools. I am running because Georgia needs a leader with real experience, not just ideas.

I am the only Democratic candidate who has served and is currently serving as a superintendent, and I have worked at every level of education, teacher, assistant principal, principal, and district leader, across rural, suburban, and urban communities.

I understand what our schools need: stronger literacy and numeracy, real support for teachers, and early exposure to career pathways so students are prepared for the future.

This election is about results. I bring proven leadership, a heart for students, and a plan to move Georgia forward.

I would be honored to earn your support.

This isn't theory for me, it's the work I do every day.

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### Lydia Powell

Democratic Candidate for State School Superintendent

*(Statement Provided)*



My name is Dr. Lydia Powell, and I'm running to be your next State Superintendent of Schools.

Why? Because Georgia Democrats deserve a strong, experienced candidate who can *win in November*—and who is ready to deliver real results for our students, teachers, and families.

I bring 26 years of experience in public education and a lifelong commitment to service. I currently serve on the local board for CTAE-HOSA and SkillsUSA, and I'm the Chair of the City of Fayetteville Ethics Commission. Within the Democratic Party, I'm an active member of the Fayette County Democrats, a post seat holder, and formerly a precinct captain.

My priorities are clear:

- Universal access to preschool education
- Reducing the overemphasis on standardized testing

- Bridging the gap with rural Georgia

Too many of our rural schools face systemic challenges limited transportation, lower teacher pay, and fewer opportunities for advanced coursework. It's time to change that.

This campaign is about building a public school system that works for every Georgia student urban, suburban, and rural alike. Experience matters in this race, and I'm ready to lead Georgia's schools into a brighter, more equitable future.

Let's give Georgia's students the educational makeover they deserve.

My website: [www.drlydiapowell.com](http://www.drlydiapowell.com)

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## Otha Thornton

Democratic Candidate for State School Superintendent

*(Statement Provided)*



As a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel, former White House Communications Agency leader under two Presidents, and the 53rd National PTA President, I have spent my life serving our country, our communities, and—most importantly—our children.

I am running for Georgia State School Superintendent because I believe our education system must be fully aligned with the future of our workforce, the strength of our economy, and the success of every child—no matter their zip code.

My platform is focused on three core priorities:

### 1. Literacy as the Foundation

Every child must read on grade level by third grade. Literacy is the gateway to all learning, and we must ensure early intervention, strong teacher support, and accountability to get this right.

### 2. Career Readiness and Workforce Development

Not every student's path is the same—and that's okay. I will expand career pathways, apprenticeships, and technical education aligned with Georgia's workforce needs, including high-demand fields like skilled trades, healthcare, and technology. By strengthening partnerships with local school systems, RESAs, and business communities like Wayne County, we can ensure students graduate ready to succeed—whether in college, career, or service.

### 3. Parent Accountability and Engagement

Education works best when families are engaged. I will champion policies that empower parents as true partners in education, while also ensuring accountability at every level—state, district, school, and home.

Georgia is growing, but we face real challenges: teacher shortages, workforce gaps, and disparities between rural and urban districts. My leadership brings a unique combination of military discipline, national policy experience, and grassroots advocacy to address these challenges head-on.

I believe in practical solutions, strong partnerships with business and community leaders, and a results-driven approach that puts children first while strengthening our state's economic future.

I would be honored to earn your support.

**Additional candidates (no statement):**

**Republican:**

- Fred "Bubba" Longgrear
- Mesha Mainor
- Randall E. Trammell
- Richard Woods

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## Commissioner of Labor

### Democratic Ballot

**Nikki Porcher**

Democratic Candidate for Commissioner of Labor

*(Statement Provided)*



I'm Nikki Porcher, and I'm running for Georgia Labor Commissioner because work should work for everyone.

I've served this country as a veteran, I've been a public school teacher, and I've spent the last decade helping build real economic opportunities in our communities. I've seen what happens when systems work, and I've experienced what happens when they don't.

Right now, too many Georgians are doing everything right and still struggling. People are working full time and cannot afford housing. Parents are being pushed out of the workforce because childcare is too expensive or unavailable. Veterans return home ready to work but face barriers translating their skills into stable careers.

That is not a people problem. That is a system problem.

As Labor Commissioner, I will focus on strengthening our workforce by protecting workers from wage theft and unsafe conditions, making sure people understand their rights and can access them, and building real pathways to good jobs.

I will treat childcare like the workforce issue it is so parents can stay and grow in their careers. I will make sure veterans are not just thanked for their service, but connected to opportunities that match their skills and experience.

Georgia can be number one for business and number one for workers. It's time we demand both.

I'm not running on theory. I'm running on experience and a clear plan to make work work for everyone.

If you want to live in a Georgia where work works for everyone, support my campaign at [Vote4Nikki.com](http://Vote4Nikki.com).

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**Michelle Michi Sanchez**

Democratic Candidate for Commissioner of Labor

*(Statement Provided)*

My name is Michi Sánchez and I am running for Georgia Labor Commissioner in the May 19 Democratic Primary.

Every year, over \$450 million is stolen from Georgia workers through unpaid wages, illegal deductions, and misclassification. That is not a stat I learned from a policy paper. I have lived it. And after more than a decade of organizing in communities across this state, I have seen how it plays out in families, small businesses, and local economies from Hall County to Wayne County.

The Labor Commissioner's office has the authority to go after wage theft, protect workers, modernize our unemployment system, and connect Georgians to the jobs of the future. That authority has been underused for far too long. I am running to change that.

I am a mother, a small business owner, and a daughter of Central American immigrants. I have spent my career showing up in communities that get overlooked and I will bring that same commitment to this office. I would be grateful for your support on May 19.

Learn more at [michi4ga.com](http://michi4ga.com) or follow along at [@michi4ga](https://twitter.com/michi4ga).

**Additional candidates (no statement):**

**Republican:**

- Barbara Rivera Holmes

**Democratic:**

- Brett Hulme
- Jason Moon
- Christina Wise Smith

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# Public Service Commissioner District 3

## Democratic Ballot

### Peter Hubbard

Democratic Candidate for Public Service Commissioner District 3

*(Statement Provided)*



I ran for the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) because working families need a fighter. Right now, Wayne County is dealing with the massive data center boom. Your local commissioners are actively drafting new ordinances to prepare for developers, and local conservation groups are rightfully raising the alarm. But whether a massive data center is built right in Jesup or a few counties over, ratepayers shouldn't be forced to foot the bill for the massive grid expansions and polluting fossil-gas plants that power them.

For too long, the PSC acted like a rubber stamp for monopolies, leaving everyday Georgians to subsidize corporate profits. Since taking office in January, I've pushed back to ensure our seniors, farmers, and small business owners are protected from crushing energy costs. We've started bringing real accountability back to the Commission and fighting for true energy freedom, but to protect your wallet, we need to finish the job. I'm running for a full six-year term to ensure Wayne County's economy always comes before monopoly profits and that data centers pay their fair share. I'd be honored to earn your vote.

### Additional candidates (no statement):

#### Republican:

- Fitz Johnson
- Brandon Martin

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# Public Service Commissioner District 5

## Republican Ballot

### Josh Tolbert

Republican Candidate for Public Service Commissioner District 5

*(Statement Provided)*

The Georgia Public Service Commission is making multi-billion-dollar decisions that directly impact power bills, economic growth, and who ultimately pays for new infrastructure—including the rapid expansion of energy demand from data centers.

These decisions are highly technical in nature, yet there is not a single engineer currently serving on the Commission.

I am running to change that.

I am a licensed Professional Engineer with four engineering degrees, including a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, and a career focused on power generation and large-scale energy systems. I have worked across multiple technologies and understand both the technical and economic implications of these decisions.

My priorities are reliable power, affordable rates, and ensuring that costs are allocated fairly. As Georgia continues to grow, we must meet new demand without overbuilding or shifting unnecessary financial risk onto everyday ratepayers.

My vision is a Public Service Commission grounded in technical competence, transparency, and objective decision-making. I will ask the hard questions, evaluate the data rigorously, and ensure that decisions are made in the best interest of Georgia's families and businesses.

The key message is simple: these decisions are too important to be made without the right expertise at the table. I will bring that expertise.

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## Democratic Ballot

### Craig Cupid

Democratic Candidate for Public Service Commissioner District 5

*(Statement Provided)*



As an engineer, attorney, and dedicated husband and father, I understand that every penny on your power bill matters.

Georgia's Public Service Commission decides what your rates look like. In 2026, all of GA will vote on the statewide seats of the PSC Districts 3 and 5. I'm running in the Democratic Primary for the District 5 seat to keep your lights on, keep costs in check, and ensure innovation works for everyone.

What I Will Fight For:

1. Rate Accountability & Transparent Oversight - I'll ask the tough questions utilities don't want to answer—because I understand their technical studies and financial projections.
2. Fair Cost Allocation for Data Centers & Large Users - I'll protect residential and small business ratepayers while supporting responsible economic development. Big Tech shouldn't raise your family's power bill.
3. Reliable Power & Faster Storm Recovery - I'll focus on grid resilience, stronger accountability for outage response, and upgrades that measurably reduce downtime. Keeping the lights on is a promise to every household and small business.
4. Cost Effective Renewables - I want to accelerate renewable energy deployment. In many cases, solar and wind are now competitive or less expensive than traditional energy generation. Let's use that to Georgia's advantage.

## **Additional candidates (no statement):**

### **Republican:**

- Bobby Mahan
- Carolyn Tatum Roddy

### **Democratic:**

- Sheila Edwards
- Angelia Pressley

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# U.S. House of Representatives District 1

## **Republican Ballot**

### **Pat Farrell**

Republican Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives District 1

*(Statement Provided)*



Pat Farrell has spent more than two decades serving his community as a County Commissioner, delivering real results instead of empty promises. He understands how local government works, how to balance budgets, and how to fight for taxpayers—because he’s been doing it for years. Pat’s roots in farming and business give him a practical, no-nonsense perspective that career politicians simply don’t have. He knows what it means to meet a payroll, work the land, and navigate the challenges facing Georgia’s families, farmers, and small businesses.

A proud conservative, Pat Farrell believes in limited government, lower taxes, and protecting the values that make Georgia strong. He stands firmly for law and order, secure borders, and putting American workers first—because he knows our government should serve our people, not special interests or Washington insiders. His America First approach means prioritizing Georgia jobs, defending our way of life, and ensuring our communities—not bureaucrats—shape our future.

Pat Farrell is the kind of leader Georgia was built on: hardworking, principled, and deeply connected to the people he serves. He’s not running to be someone—he’s running to do something. And he’ll bring the same grit, integrity, and commitment to Washington that he’s shown right here at home.

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### **Krista Penn**

Republican Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives District 1

*(Statement Provided)*

Krista Penn is running for Congress because she believes serving others isn’t just a job, it’s a calling, and she believes the people of the South Georgia deserve something better.



A Navy veteran, healthcare leader, and former small business owner, Krista Penn knows what it means to work hard, serve others, and stand up for what's right. She's seen the impact of rising costs on families, the strain on small businesses, and the growing frustration with a federal government that feels out of touch with rural communities. Krista has dedicated her life to taking care of people and standing up for what matters. That same sense of duty is why she's stepping forward now.

Across the 1st District, people value hard work, faith, family, and freedom, and they deserve a representative who shares those values and will fight to protect them. Krista Penn will stand strong for secure borders, support for law enforcement, lower taxes, and getting Washington out of the way so our local communities and

businesses can thrive.

She's not a career politician. She's answering a call to now serve the people in this district where she'll bring that same commitment, integrity, and courage to Washington.

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## **Kandiss Taylor**

Republican Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives District 1

*(Statement Provided)*



My name is Kandiss Taylor, and I am running for Congress to put the First District first.

I am a lifelong educator, teacher, school counselor, and administrator, a wife to my husband Ryan, and a proud mother of three. Like many families in Wayne County and across our district, I have worked hard, lived on a budget, and understand what it means to earn every dollar. I am running because I want my children, and yours, to grow up in a country that is free, safe, and full of opportunity.

I am also the only candidate in this race who is not from Savannah. I am the only candidate from coastal, rural Georgia. For 35 years, this seat has been held by Savannah-based representation, yet our district is largely rural. Our communities deserve a voice in Washington that truly understands rural south GA, coastal industries, and the values that define our way of life.

Our communities deserve strong, unapologetic representation that reflects our values. I believe in putting American families first by restoring affordability, securing our borders, protecting our local industries, and defending the freedoms that make this nation great.

I will fight too:

- Restore fiscal responsibility in Washington and stop reckless spending
- Support our working families, small businesses, farmers, and local industries
- Protect our communities by backing law enforcement and enforcing our laws
- Defend the family unit as the foundation of a strong and healthy society
- Ensure parents, not the government, have the final say in their children's lives

I am not a career politician. I am a wife, a mother, and a public servant who understands the challenges our families face because I've lived them. I know what it costs to provide, to sacrifice, and to lead with faith and conviction.

It would be an honor to earn your vote. Together, we can restore strong leadership, protect our values, and ensure rural and coastal Georgia are finally represented.

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## Democratic Ballot

### Joyce Marie Griggs

Democratic Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives District 1

*(Statement Provided)*



- Served 33 years as a commissioned officer in military intelligence with the highest levels of national security clearance.
- Deployed 3 times to Iraq as Deputy Director of Intelligence — collaborated with national and grassroots intelligence agencies -designed and implemented a program to protect American service members and allied forces.
- The military doesn't reward good intentions. It rewards results.
- I retired as a decorated Lieutenant Colonel and combat veteran, honored with the Bronze Star
- I have been trained to assess complex systems, identify risk, and develop targeted solutions under pressure, in real time
- I have proven ability to create solutions that actually work —This is exactly what GA-01 needs today.

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### Michael McCord

Democratic Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives District 1

*(Statement Provided)*



My name is Michael McCord, and I'm running for Congress because I believe the people of Georgia's 1st District deserve someone who will show up, speak honestly, and fight for them—every single day.

I didn't come from politics. I come from a working-class background. I've worked long hours, lived paycheck to paycheck, and built my life from the ground up. Like many of you, I know what it's like to struggle—and I know what it takes to keep going anyway.

That's why I'm running.

For too long, our district has been represented by the same type of candidates—polished, predictable, and disconnected from the reality most families face. Election after election, we hear the same promises, and we get the same results. It's time to try something different.

My campaign is focused on common-sense priorities: lowering costs for working families, expanding access to affordable healthcare through a public option, protecting Social Security and Medicare, supporting small businesses, and investing in infrastructure and job creation across all 15 counties—not just a select few.

I also believe we need to rebuild a Democratic Party that can win here again. That means speaking to everyone—rural communities, working families, and folks who may not feel like either party is listening to them anymore. We don't win by talking at people—we win by showing up, listening, and earning their trust.

You may not always agree with me on everything—but you will always know where I stand.

I'm not a career politician. I'm a fighter who's been knocked down, gotten back up, and kept going. And that's exactly how I'll represent you in Congress.

If you're ready for something different—someone real, someone honest, and someone who will fight for you—I'd be honored to earn your vote.

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## **Joey Palimeno**

Democratic Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives District 1

*(Statement Provided)*



My name is Joey Palimeno, and I'm running for Congress because working families deserve a real voice in Washington again.

I'm a working-class dad and the proud father of four kids. I spent nearly 17 years working as a veterinary technician, and like many folks I've taken extra jobs just to make ends meet including working at UPS as a Teamster. It was there where I learned the importance of strong unions and workers standing together.

South Georgia deserves leadership that puts people first not lobbyists, special interest groups and big money.

My priorities include universal healthcare, lowering housing costs, strengthening schools and job training, protecting Social Security, and supporting the industries that power our coastal economy including fishing, ports, logistics, and maritime jobs.

I'll also fight for policies that help local small businesses actually compete and grow instead of giving giant corporations all the advantages.

I'm proud to run a grassroots campaign powered by working people, not corporate PAC money.

Working class people like myself who have gone unseen, unheard and forgotten for far too long deserve a voice in Washington.

## **Additional candidates (no statement):**

### **Republican:**

- James “Jim” Kingston
- Brian Montgomery
- Eugene Yu

### **Democratic:**

- Defonsio Daniels
- Amanda Hollowell
- Sharon Stokes Williamson
- Patrick J. Wilver
- Randy Zurcher

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# State Senate District 19

## **Republican Ballot**

### **Dwayne Hamilton Gillis**

Republican Candidate for State Senate District 19

*(Statement Provided)*



I have extensive experience in many areas of government and life that affect Georgia and Wayne County in particular. I am a former police officer, municipal court judge (Appointed by Douglas City Commission) and Juvenile Court Judge (appointed by the sitting Superior Court Judges in the Waycross Judicial Circuit) combined nine years (part-time). I practiced law for 11 years. Thereafter I served 24 years and 9 months as a Superior Court Judge, in which 18 years of that as the Chief Judge of the Waycross Circuit. I was elected five times without opposition. During that time, I worked with six county commissions, six sheriffs and had supervisory authority over scores of lower court judges. I also served on or chaired a variety of committees; examples are the Sexual Assault/Rape Protocol Committee, Domestic Violence Committee, and the

Truancy Protocol Committees (six counties). I created our Circuit's Mental Health Court and ran it and our Drug Court for 14 years, saving countless lives.

I own and run a small business, radio and digital newspaper, that lives or dies on our local business community. We are “Small Business.” My wife and I, along with our children and grandchildren, farm part of my Grandfather's farm (5th generation now). We have a 40-acre orange grove. We face all the challenges that other farmers face, high input cost, weather challenges and cheap unregulated foreign competition. I have been married for 44 years to my high school sweetheart, and we have 3 children, 7 grandchildren, with another due in May.

My grandchildren's future and yours is at stake. Our future should be in the hands of the most experienced person of unquestionable character and faith, one who has been trusted by city and county commissions, sitting

Superior Court Judges and 140,000 plus people (in the Waycross Judicial Circuit). The 200,000 plus people in Senate District 19 can trust me, too. For more information, please go to Facebook (Gillis for Senate) and our website at [gillisforsenate.com](http://gillisforsenate.com). Vote for proven experience, integrity and faith. Our children and grandchildren's future deserve our very best.

**Additional candidates (no statement):**

**Republican:**

- Travis Hodges
- David Sikes

**Democratic:**

- Eddy Delgado
- Joshua C. Wilkerson

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## House of Representative District 167

### **Democratic Ballot**

#### **Nathaniel Hicks**

Democratic Candidate for House of Representative District 167

*(Statement Provided)*

My name is Nathaniel Hicks Jr. I am a lifelong resident of McIntosh County GA. I have been in Public Service my whole life. I have served our country as a United States Marine; I have served my community as a Firefighter/Paramedic; I have served others as an investigator for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit and the Brunswick Judicial Circuit; I have been preaching the gospel since 92 and Pastoring since 95. I have been with my wife since 1983, and we have three beautiful kids. I also have 3 1/2 years of Law School. My motto is "some people campaign on promises; others (like me) have spent a lifetime serving."

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#### **Laurie Thompson**

Democratic Candidate for House of Representative District 167

*(Statement Provided)*

I love Wayne County and know it's worth fighting for. Our river, land, and community—I'm committed to protecting it and building its future. But the truth is our utility bills are soaring, drugs are ravaging our neighborhoods, jobs are scarce, our Altamaha and treasured landscapes are under threat, and families are bracing for outrageous property



tax bills. This is one broken system. I'm running to fix it: real jobs, protecting our river and land, effective drug treatment and recovery, a phased property assessment, and affordable utilities. Wayne County has what it needs — I'm ready to lead. [ThompsonForUs.com](http://ThompsonForUs.com)

**Additional candidates (no statement):**

**Republican:**

- Buddy Deloach

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## House of Representative District 178

### **Democratic Ballot**

**Barry Dunham**

Democratic Candidate for House of Representative District 178

*(Statement Provided)*

You can find more information about my campaign at [electdunhamforhd178.com](http://electdunhamforhd178.com).

**Additional candidates (no statement):**

**Republican:**

- Steven Meeks
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## Understanding the Nonpartisan Judicial Ballot

Judicial races for the Georgia Supreme Court and Court of Appeals are listed by ‘seat’ or ‘position.’ Each section represents a specific judicial seat being contested, not separate courts. Voters will select one candidate in each section.

### 3 seats up for Election for Justice Supreme Court of Georgia

## For Justice Supreme Court of Georgia (1 seat)

### Miracle Rankin

Nonpartisan Candidate for Justice Supreme Court of Georgia

*(Statement Provided)*



Miracle Rankin is running for the Supreme Court of Georgia because Georgians deserve a justice who understands how court decisions affect everyday lives, families, small businesses, and communities. She brings nearly two decades of real courtroom experience and a deep commitment to fairness, integrity, and equal justice under the law. Miracle believes our courts should protect the rights of all people, uphold the rule of law, and inspire public confidence through independence, professionalism, and respect for the Constitution. She has fought to bring justice for her clients across this state and won against powerful interests. Wayne County voters can trust Miracle Rankin on the bench because her ample experience affords her the judgment and commitment to justice needed to serve Georgia with honor.

Thank you again for the opportunity and for your consideration

### Additional candidates (no statement):

- Charles “Charlie” Bethel (Incumbent)

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## For Justice Supreme Court of Georgia (2<sup>nd</sup> seat)

### Additional candidates (no statement):

- Ben Land
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# For Justice Supreme Court of Georgia (3<sup>rd</sup> seat)

## **Jen Auer Jordan**

Nonpartisan Candidate for Justice Supreme Court of Georgia

*(Statement Provided)*



I grew up in Dodge County as the oldest child of a single mother who worked as a hairdresser and taught me early the value of hard work, perseverance, and helping others when they need it most. As a girl in small-town Georgia, I learned those lessons and benefitted from the support that Georgia offers determined students, going to Georgia Southern University due to the encouragement of my public school teachers and a HOPE scholarship before working my way through law school at the University of Georgia, where I graduated at the top of my class. It was in law school that I found my voice and came to believe deeply that the courts should be a place where everyone is treated equally and that the law can be a powerful tool for justice.

My rural Georgia roots inform my approach to the law and public service. Put simply, I believe in helping people when they need it the most. To me, the law is supposed to serve the people of this state. I do not believe that political agendas or powerful interests get to trample on our rights and liberties. Under the law, we are all meant to stand equal.

I'm running for the Georgia Supreme Court because I believe the Court, the Georgia Constitution, and the laws of this state belong to all Georgians—not just the politically-powerful or well-connected. For too long, the Court has been dominated by insiders. I am committed to changing that by listening to Georgians across our state and ensuring their voices are taken to our highest court.

I have spent my legal career standing up on behalf of the people—whether fighting for victims against predatory payday lenders or fighting big insurance companies that refuse to cover lifesaving cancer treatments. After decades in and out of the courtroom working for everyday Georgians, I have the practical experience and legal expertise to consider any case on the Court's docket impartially and fairly.

That experience matters. The Georgia Supreme Court is the last line of defense for liberties and freedoms guaranteed under the Georgia Constitution. Georgians deserve a justice who understands what's at stake and who will approach every case with fairness, independence, and a deep commitment to the people.

## **Additional candidates (no statement):**

- Sarah Hawkins Warren (Incumbent)
-

## 5 seats up for Election for Judge Court of Appeals Georgia

# Judge Court of Appeals Georgia (seat 1)

### Will Wooton

Nonpartisan Candidate for Judge Court of Appeals Georgia

*(Statement Provided)*



My fellow hardworking Georgians in Wayne County:

I am running for the Georgia Court of Appeals because I believe our courts must be grounded in the rule of law, focused on public safety, and faithful to the limited role of judges.

I have spent the majority of my career in Georgia courtrooms prosecuting murderers, sexual predators, gang members, and fraudsters, and standing up for crime victims and their families. That experience has shaped my understanding of how the law affects real people and real communities, and it is why I approach the law with discipline and a strong sense of responsibility.

In addition to my work in the courtroom, I helped draft and pass legislation signed into law by Governor Brian Kemp that allows cases involving fraud and theft to be prosecuted in the home county of the victim. That means if someone drains your hard-earned savings from another city in Georgia or even across state lines, the case can still be prosecuted right in Wayne County. This reform ensures that Georgians and Georgia businesses can seek justice in their own communities rather than being forced to pursue it elsewhere.

This race presents a clear choice. I am asking to earn this position from the people of Georgia based on my record in the courtroom and my commitment to the rule of law. My opponent holds this seat by appointment, not by earning the trust of voters in a contested election, and his background stands in contrast to my experience prosecuting violent criminals and working closely with law enforcement to keep Georgia communities safe.

His record on the bench has also drawn serious concern. In one high-profile case, Judge Benjamin Land, who was later appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court by Governor Kemp, wrote in dissent that the result reached by my opponent was one that “the law does not support” and that “violates well-established precedent.” Land also expressed concern that the decision stepped outside the proper role of an appellate court.

If elected, I will bring a steady, straightforward approach to the Court of Appeals by applying the law as written, respecting precedent, and recognizing that the role of a judge is to interpret the law, not to make it. Georgia deserves judges who stick to calling balls and strikes. It would be an honor to earn your support as you head to the polls on May 19, 2026.

### **Additional candidates (no statement):**

- Trenton “Trent” Brown (Incumbent)
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## Judge Court of Appeals Georgia (seat 2)

**Additional candidates (no statement):**

- Sarah Doyle (Incumbent)
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## Judge Court of Appeals Georgia (seat 3)

**Additional candidates (no statement):**

- Fatima Harris Felton
  - Elizabeth D. Gobell (Incumbent)
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## Judge Court of Appeals Georgia (seat 4)

**Additional candidates (no statement):**

- David Todd Markle (Incumbent)
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## Judge Court of Appeals Georgia (seat 5)

**Additional candidates (no statement):**

- J. Wade Padgett (Incumbent)
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## Judge Superior Court Brunswick Judicial

**Nonpartisan Ballot**

**Additional candidates (no statement):**

- Roger B. Lane (Incumbent)