

2010 candidate questionnaire

NAME: **Don Balfour**

PARTY: Republican

SEEKING: State Senate, District 9



Why are you seeking your office?

I have accomplished a lot for Gwinnett County and the State, but I know there is more work to be done. We have one of the toughest immigration laws but we need to strengthen it. We have cut over 3 billion dollars in government spending, but we need to do more to make government efficient. I have worked hard to create jobs but we need more tax incentives for companies to move to Georgia. I have enjoyed working for the people of Gwinnett County and look forward to serving them in the next two years.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

There are a lot of people hurting right now because of the economy, ten percent of Gwinnett is unemployed. I don't just talk about issues I get things done. I worked hard to have NCR, a Fortune 500 company, move its HQ and 500 jobs from Ohio to Gwinnett. I sponsored the bill that started Georgia Gwinnett College, which in just four years has over 5,000 students. When Emory Hospital was trying to stop Gwinnett from getting open hearts, I went down and met with their CEO and legal counsel and successfully got them to withdraw their appeal.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I have 26 years experience in business which I have used to draw business into Gwinnett. I know how to take an idea, and turn it into a law that will benefit the people of Gwinnett. I was the only candidate who publicly stood against the county property tax increase. I was also the only candidate to oppose the county government takeover of private garbage collection. I authored the property tax assessment freeze that has saved Gwinnett homeowners hundreds of millions in backdoor tax increases.

What are the key issues in your race?

Jobs, reducing government spending, and getting tougher on illegal immigration. Transportation and water.

Pick one issue. Expand on how you will address it.

Jobs. You create jobs by having an atmosphere that invites business to move in. By having a colleges like Georgia Gwinnett College, and Gwinnett Tech which trains and retrain employees, we equip the workforce. By having first class medical choices close by like Gwinnett Medical Center, and Eastside Medical Center we create the kind of community that draws companies from around the country to relocate in Gwinnett. Reducing state regulations, and taxes encourages businesses to come.

Give a 100 word summary of your background.

I have been married to my wife Ginny for 29 years. Ginny is an R.N. at Egleston Childrens Hospital, and our son Trey recently returned from a tour in Afghanistan with the National Guard. My family attends Grace Fellowship Church in Snellville. I have worked at Gwinnett-based Waffle House for 26 years. I passed a law to effectively freeze property tax which has saved Gwinnett citizens hundreds of millions of dollars, I passed one of the strongest ethics laws in our nation. I worked to limit government power to take private land by eminent domain.