

NAME: Brenda Lopez
PARTY: Democratic
**SEEKING: Georgia House of Representatives,
District 99**



Why are you seeking your office?

I am running for office because our General Assembly needs more elected officials that have the experience of the communities they serve and are inclusive. My experience speaks for itself and it motivates me to continue to serve the people of Georgia as State Representative by Bridging Our Neighborhoods to Our Government with action and hands-on, boots on the ground, hard work.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I want to work to expand Medicaid as part of the Affordable Care Act implementation as an option to deal with the deep health crisis that Georgia suffers. Studies have shown that there are between 300,000 to 600,000 uninsured Georgia residents, the vast majority in rural areas, which would benefit from expanding Medicaid. We have wasted too much time already, Georgia needs and deserves a boost in its health care access.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I am a bridge between the communities in my district and the local government. My priority as state legislator will be to educate and engage all residents of Gwinnett to the functions of local and state government authorities in Georgia (city councils, police department, board of commissioners, etc.) and how they should have an input in the decision making of the county and state. I want our residents to be empowered to have more say in the implementation of policies in Georgia.

What are the key issues in your race?

Key Issues are rebuilding trust with law enforcement; economic employment; access to quality education, need for public transit and better maintained streets, and raising the minimum wage.

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

I would support legislation that expands access to education. I was a recipient of the HOPE scholarship, and I want to ensure that we continue to adequately fund and maintain the scholarship for our next generations. I will support legislation that seeks to improve HOPE. Furthermore, I believe that it takes a village to motivate our students to continue onto higher education. I have been and will continue to be

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involved in our local schools providing workshops, resources, and guidance to connect our students to information to ensure they are able to pursue their dreams and goals of college enrollment.

Give a 100 word summary of your background.

I am an Attorney, and I have sought to incorporate civil rights, international law, and community development into the practice of law. I hold a law degree from Syracuse University with a National Security and Counterterrorism certificate and a bachelor's degree from Georgia State University in Political Science and Sociology. I clerked for Georgia Legal Services Program and American Civil Liberties Union. For over 15 years, I have been involved in political, legal, and education advocacy as a servant leader. Among my lengthy volunteerism, I am most excited to be a G.E.D. instructor with the Marist School Adult Education Program.