

NAME: Ronnie K. Batchelor
PARTY: Non-Partisan
SEEKING: Judge of Superior Court



1. Why are you seeking the office?

I am seeking re-election, as I have served as a Superior Court Judge for the past 12 years. Prior to serving in Superior Court, I served as a Magistrate for 3 years. As a judge, I have presided over hundreds of jury and non-jury trials, and have one of the most efficient court dockets in Gwinnett County.

2. What distinguishes your candidacy?

Prior to taking the bench, I was in private practice for 23 years, handling a diversity of cases in family law, criminal defense, civil litigation, medical malpractice, estates, contracts and other types of legal matters. Prior to practicing law, I served as a police officer for two years. I have the unique experience of practical insight as to both the defense and prosecution of criminal cases, as well as extensive experience on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants in civil litigation.

3. What is the proper role of a judge in interpreting the laws and Constitution?

After hearing the evidence and the legal arguments, arriving at a decision that is fair and just under the given law applicable to the issues before the Court. Administering justice for all who appear before the bench regardless of their personal circumstances should be of paramount concern. A judge must administer that justice pursuant to the law established by the legislature, keeping in mind the public policies and intent of the given law.

4. What in your life experience makes you believe that you are or would be a good judge?

I was raised by a single mother with a strong moral ethic. I have been married for 45 years and have raised 3 children. I bring a diversity of practical experience with me to the bench based upon my professional history. During my 23 years of private practice, I helped people in difficult situations having enormous impact on their lives. I have personal experience as an independent business operator. These experiences have given me practical insight into many types of cases and areas of law, and how the decisions I make will impact the individual litigants that appear before me.

5. What do you think are the attributes of a good judge?

Knowledge of the law; judicial temperament; and a desire to administer justice for all who appear before the bench regardless of their personal circumstances are three of the most important attributes of a judge.

6. Please give a 100 word summary of your background.

I am a life-long resident of Georgia and have lived in Gwinnett County for 45 years. I reside in Snellville with my wife, Judy, to whom I have been married for 44 years. We attend Smoke Rise Baptist Church, where I have served as a church deacon. I am actively engaged in the community, including past service as Vice-President of the Brookwood High School Touchdown Club, and Treasurer for the Brookwood Dugout Club. My son, John, is a prosecutor with the Hall County Solicitor-General's Office. My daughter, Kim, is a teacher with Gwinnett County Public Schools.