

NAME: Gloria Butler
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: State Senate, District 55



Why are you seeking your office?

I am seeking re-election because I believe I have made a great impact in the State Senate. I have the courage to speak out on the tough issues and have established myself as a respected and trustworthy legislator. "My votes and my out-spokenness prove that I am an advocate for Women's rights, and a fighter for children in abusive situations. I support raising the minimum wage to \$15.00 and advocate for equal pay for women. I introduced a bill to require companies that receive special tax subsidies to create jobs, hire, and retain people for those jobs.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

When I am re-elected I will continue to support legislation that will increase access to the ballot box by eliminating hurdles to voting. Continue to focus on building strong families; creating an educated workforce; and stand up for working families who are struggling to pay their mortgage, buy health insurance and put food on their tables.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

18th year of experience, elected 9 times, highest ranking female in the Senate, # 4 in seniority, served 12 years as Deputy Whip. Presently serving as Chair of Fundraising. Passed legislation that prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage of asthma inhalers. Passed the "Kellen Edwin Bollen Act" which allows children suffering from Asthma to administer medication on their own while at school. Added to the state code to require installation of carbon monoxide detectors in newly built single family homes. Encouraged the State Dept of Educ to add "Teen Dating Violence" courses to their curriculum.

What are the key issues in your race?

I believe Education is always at the forefront of all issues. Opportunity School Districts constitutional amendment which is on the ballot in Nov. I opposed and voted against. I support full funding of our Pre-K program, which supports early learning, and implementation of medicaid expansion so that all Georgians have access to healthcare.

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

A plan for HOPE, designed to ensure that our best and brightest students from across the state can afford to go to college. Just as it was when HOPE began, there should be an income cap. In some parts of Georgia the plan would cover all HOPE scholars. Instead of depleting the rainy day fund, HOPE would run a surplus.

Give a 100 word summary of your background.

Born and raised in Daytona Beach, Fla., moved to Georgia in 1977. Mother of two daughters, Felicia and Leslie, grandmother of two, grandson Corey, granddaughter Courtney, and six great-grandsons and a new great-grand on the way. Attended college at Florida A & M University, Bethune Cookman University and after moving to Georgia, received an Associate Degree in Business Administration. More recent employment, Emory University, Washington, DC Congressional Office of Cynthia McKinney, 1996 Olympic Games, and the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office. Elected to State Senate in 1998.