

NAME: Scott Holcomb
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: House of Representatives,
District 81



Why are you seeking your office?

I believe Georgia can and must do better. In too many areas, our state is underperforming and I don't accept that. We must strengthen our economic competitiveness, invest in our educational systems, improve our transportation networks, and improve access to health care for our population. Those are just today's challenges. We must also plan for tomorrow. This will take innovative thinking, hard work, and smart investments to make sure that Georgia is thriving 20 years from now—and beyond. I believe I can be useful in that work.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

Victims deserve justice, and I'll continue fighting for them. Last year, I passed bipartisan legislation to ensure the timely processing of rape kits in Georgia. This was necessary because thousands of kits languished on shelves even though victims wanted their cases to be prosecuted. That was unacceptable and I took action. I worked with law enforcement, care providers, and victims' rights advocates to pass comprehensive legislation to fix this terrible problem. I intend to build upon this work and I've started drafting legislation. Among other proposals, I'll fight for increased sentencing when victims of sexual assault are unconscious or incapacitated.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I am a leader at the Capitol and I get along well with members from both parties. As a former prosecutor, I understand the importance of reforming our criminal justice system. As a veteran of America's recent wars, I am a leader on issues affecting veterans and passed legislation to help veterans and their families. As a parent of public school students and a former instructor at Georgia Tech, I care deeply about Georgia's educational system and I want it to be world class every step of the way. I work hard, I'm accessible, and I get things done.

What are the key issues in your race?

Education is important to the residents of the 81st House District, and I will continue to be a strong leader on this issue. Voters are also concerned about the economy, and I support policies that promote growth and lead to more employment. These include investing in our infrastructure and ensuring that we have a skilled labor force. In addition, I hear from voters who are frustrated with the lack of ethics

and competence of many public officials. I fully support additional ethics reform and I've worked hard to be an effective legislator.

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

I am drafting legislation to address sexual violence in Georgia. This is a major issue and approximately 1 in 5 undergraduate females is a victim of sexual assault. The first thing that I'm going to push for is an enhanced penalty when the victim is incapacitated or unconscious. Like many of you, I was appalled by the lenient sentence given to Brock Turner, the Stanford swimmer who sexually assaulted an unconscious woman and only spent three months in jail. We can't allow sentences like that to happen in Georgia.

Give a 100 word summary of your background.

As a husband, father, veteran, and lawyer, I know the meaning of service. I have served in the Georgia House of Representatives since 2011 and have been very effective representing the 81st district. I am an experienced lawyer who has prosecuted cases, built a successful firm, and helped businesses grow. I taught part-time at Georgia Tech and I earned an MBA from UGA while working full time and serving in the legislature. I served in the Air National Guard for six years and the U.S. Army for another six years. I deployed overseas three times.