

**NAME:** Jasper Watkins  
**PARTY:** Democratic  
**SEEKING:** County Commission, District 3



**Why are you seeking your office?**

I want to serve the residents to improve the quality of life in Gwinnett County District 3. I believe that together we can strengthen the county by creating safer neighborhoods to raise our children. I will place priorities on critical investments in transportation, investment in economic growth and job creation, building an infrastructure that makes sense, and bringing transparency back to local government in order to move towards a progressive future. My focus is to balance the needs of today, while thinking about the future. I feel my diverse background will bring a more balanced approach to our county government.

**What do you expect to accomplish if elected?**

I expect to maintain a strong financial position that is balanced against needs such as transportation improvements, infrastructure revitalization, and growing wages while shrinking inequities. My primary focus will address our transportation infrastructure. This is a public safety, economic and quality of life issue. Clogged and unsafe roadways are already impacting our ability to sustain and attract fortune 500 companies and real estate industries. I believe county government should first provide essential services, including public safety and roads. Implementing or bringing rail into the county are examples of transit choices needed to ease the commute and traffic congestion in Gwinnett.

**What distinguishes your candidacy?**

I'm a father, registered pharmacist, and retired army officer. I have devoted my life to serving my community and defending our nation. I have a reputation for identifying and solving complex problems; being diplomatically assertive and a goal-oriented leader, able to make hard decisions and being highly sensitive to the needs and mission of an organization. With my experience and unique knowledge of state legislative and regulatory processes, I plan to listen, prioritize, and act on the needs of our residents, ensuring that a system of checks and balances are in place to strengthen and continually improve Gwinnett County.

**What are the key issues in your race?**

I believe the key issues include transportation infrastructure improvement, effective delivery of core services and other physical assets, enhancing public safety program initiatives, addressing declining home values and increased property taxes, more efficient use of impact fees, management of growth and development in rural areas

of the county, job creation and living wage increases for county employees. Continued investment in the education and training to sustain a skilled workforce and continuing to support schools with the resources needed to provide high-quality education are paramount. Public health issues such as opioid detox and rehab programs and better water management are critical.

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

Having efficient modes of transportation is imperative to end the traffic congestion. We can no longer pave our way out of traffic gridlock. The widening of roads to alleviate gridlock during

peak hours is no longer an effective solution for our traffic issues. Expanding our current transit system by developing and implementing an expansive bus rapid transit system and eventually bringing rail into Gwinnett County are all optional transit choices that are needed to attract more tech jobs, improve commuter service, and ease traffic congestion in Gwinnett. The economic benefits of bringing efficient transportation to Gwinnett County is paramount.

**Give a 100 word summary of your background.**

JASPER WATKINS III is a retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel with more than 35 years of federal healthcare leadership experience and 10 years at the executive level of federal and state pharmaceutical enterprises. He is a registered pharmacist and licensed nuclear pharmacist with proven senior-level experience in policy formulation, state coalition building, public and legislative relations. During the 9-11 attack on the Pentagon he supported the placement recovery operations of injured active duty / DOD civilians at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and immediately after Hurricane Katrina his pharmacy provided pharmaceutical support and medical resupply for operations in the area.