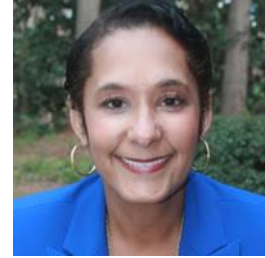


NAME: Sally Hutchinson
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: House District 107



Why are you seeking your office?

I am seeking to fill the seat for Georgia HD 107 because I became increasingly frustrated when, at each election cycle, the incumbent ran uncontested. The representation for HD 107 has not changed in 16 years; at time when Gwinnett's population boom significantly increased the diversity of the county. As a social worker, mom, wife, small business owner and resident of the district for 22 years, I feel that I am uniquely qualified to represent the diverse chorus of voices of HD 107.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

If elected I hope to address the issues of our county's beleaguered transit system. Gwinnett's roadways and transit system has not been able to keep pace with the influx of new residents. We must explore options and provide alternatives that will reduce the number of vehicles on the road, alleviate traffic congestion and reduce our carbon footprint. We can not attract major businesses to Gwinnett when our transit system is lacking, our pedestrian walkways are limited and our roadways are not cyclist-friendly. Also, I would like to explore Medicaid expansion, as I believe that will help the State's bottom line.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

What distinguishes my candidacy from others is that I have lived in HD 107 for 22 years. I raised my children in the parks, libraries and public schools of Gwinnett County. My son still plays recreational soccer at Bethesda Park. I also started and sustained a business in Gwinnett County; employing fellow Gwinnett residents. My business has received awards and nominations over the past 16 years. I know all the beauty of Gwinnett County and I know the areas that can be improved.

How can we improve school safety?

Gwinnett Public Schools have policies that make it all but impossible to penetrate the schools. At Crews Middle School, all doors are locked at all times and you have to be buzzed in the front door to enter. I don't think all schools take the same precautions. If we implement current protocol with zero tolerance for error, it would increase school safety. Most school shootings have been the result of unstable individuals entering our schools. Increasing mental health treatment and prevention would help identify the potential for harm in our communities and would address the problem before anyone is hurt.

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

Transit in Gwinnett County. The traffic, the accidents, our teenage drivers, etc... is a constant source of anxiety for many families. We market Gwinnett as family-friendly, with beautiful communities, parks, libraries, etc... Realistically, however, we cannot enjoy all of what Gwinnett has to offer unless we drive to areas of interest. I would address this by increasing the number of sidewalks and VIABLE bike paths. Additionally, speed limits in residential areas are entirely too high. Lowering speed limits and ticketing offenders would pay for, or defray the cost of, the additional pedestrian and bike friendly features on our roads.

Please give a 100 word summary on your background:

I was born in New Orleans, La. and moved to Gwinnett after receiving my Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from LSU. My first job was with Fulton County DFCS where my career in social services began.

I met my husband and we married in 1996. In 2000, I graduated from UGA with a Masters in Social Work. In 2002, I founded The Social Empowerment Center, a mental health outreach and treatment center in Lawrenceville.

I chair the Local Interagency Planning Teams for the Department of Behavioral Health. My children attend Brookwood H.S. and we remain proud residents of HD 107.