NAME: Scott Holcomb PARTY: Democratic SEEKING: House, 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?

I'll continue to advocate for victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse. Over the last few years, I've worked very hard with law enforcement, advocates, and survivors to end the backlog of untested rape kits in Georgia. I also drafted legislation to protect domestic violence victims, and that legislation was passed in 2018. In addition, I have been a strong voice on the need to update Georgia's voting system. Our machines are outdated and need to be replaced. I also intend to push for legislation to update Georgia's outdated funding formula for education. Lastly, I want Georgia to expand Medicaid.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I am a proven leader at the Capitol and I get along well with members of 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 I passed legislation to help veterans and their families. As a parent of young children 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.

How can we improve school safety?

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 would like for Georgia to modify its Quality Basic Education (QBE) funding formula. The QBE is the funding formula that Georgia uses to support public education, and it has been around for decades. The QBE does not reflect some of the latest information that we have about learning and how best to spend dollars on education. By way of example, it does not take into account poverty as a factor, and it should. The data on the correlation of poverty to educational performance is overwhelming. I am working on legislation to address this issue.

Please give a 100 word summary on 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. I am an experienced lawyer who has prosecuted cases, built a successful firm, and helped businesses grow. I represent veterans on a pro bono basis. I taught part-time at Georgia Tech and I earned my 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.