

NAME: Wayne Slear
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Georgia House District 97



Why are you seeking your office?

Every year, I see career politicians and attorneys drive an agenda that serve their own interests while ignoring the real issues faced by Georgians.

I walk into family court and pay ten thousand dollars in attorney's fees to spend more time with my son. I must plan my day around traffic because it takes an hour to travel 10 miles. I must fight to get community and medical services for my autistic son.

I am not a politician. I am not subservient to any special interest group or political party. I am a citizen who demands change.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

First and foremost, I will put the interests of my constituents before political party. My goal is to help end the divisiveness that is so counterproductive. Instead of focusing on the issues that divide us, we need to focus on the issues that unite us. For the past eight years, politicians have spent too much time focusing on the economy while ignoring other needs. Our children will not be served if their parents spend two hours each day in traffic while they attend mediocre schools. Georgia can be a model for transportation, education and court innovation. Are you ready?

What distinguishes your candidacy?

My candidacy is unique in a number of ways. It is based on a grassroots effort to make Georgia a better place. I am an ordinary citizen determined to do extraordinary things for Georgians without the affiliations that promote the interests of one group over another group.

While I do not have campaign signs at every major intersection, I do not 'owe' any special favors to political donors.

I am tackling important issues like family law reform which no other candidate is addressing. In do so, I am challenging the special interest groups that promote gridlock.

How can we improve school safety?

I have a six-point plan for improving school safety. First, middle and high schools should have police officers specially trained to work with adolescents. Second, class size needs to be reduced to allow teachers to effectively engage student behavior and intervene when the warning signs appear. Third, medical professionals need to be able to openly discuss gun issues. Fourth, mentally incompetent persons should remain on the banned list until proven otherwise. Fifth, access to assault rifles should be limited to those individuals who have a legal purpose for them. Lastly, the plan to reform family court needs to be implemented.

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

Family law inflicts damage throughout society much like a termite inflicts unseen damage on a house until it is too late. When separated parents walk into a courtroom, the court must assume that both parents are equally fit and custody is split 50/50 (or 60/40) unless there are overriding factors. Today, the court encourages conflict by picking a winner and loser in custody battles. One parent gets a guaranteed source of revenue while the other parent becomes a 'visitor' with their own children. Child support should be automatically based on the amount of time parents spend with their children.

Please give a 100 word summary on your background:

As a child, a severe speech impediment kept me from excelling in school. Supportive parents and years of speech therapy allowed me to unlock my potential. In 1991, I graduated from Bucknell University with no student loan debt.

Moving to Georgia in 2000 provided me with many opportunities. With dual national certifications in business analysis and project management complemented by 15 years of experience, I help businesses solve their problems.

I have been a Gwinnett County resident for 10 years. I currently live in Duluth with my husband and daughter and share custody of my 16-year-old son.