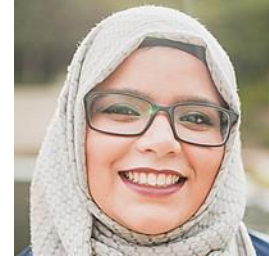


**NAME: Aisha Yaqoob**  
**PARTY: Democratic**  
**SEEKING: House District 97**



**Why are you seeking your office?**

My friends have known me as the one who, instead of complaining, will take action and try to fix a difficult situation. A few years ago when I noticed low voter turnout in immigrant communities and I had to do something. I dedicated years to making sure that my community was getting registered and out to vote. I stepped up again to advocate for the rights of immigrant communities at the State Capitol. After seeing how laws are made and working with legislators from both parties, I am stepping up once again to serve the people of the 97th District.

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

If elected, I hope to continue Rep. Brooks Coleman's legacy of fighting for public education. I plan to work towards fully funding public education including raising salaries for teachers, more funding for special needs education, and restoring the HOPE scholarship back to its 100% goal of covering in-state tuition. Additionally, I hope to be a voice for immigrants and children of immigrants as I work with legislators to make Georgia a more welcoming place for all.

**What distinguishes your candidacy?**

District 97 has never seen a candidate like me before! As the youngest candidate for this seat, I have grown up in the district. I played at George Pierce, studied at the Suwanee Library, and had my fondest memories upon graduation from North Gwinnett. I am also different in that I understand the needs of the growingly diverse district and the people that live here. As a daughter of immigrants, I truly understand what it means to work towards the American Dream and I will work hard to ensure that everyone gets a shot at that dream.

**How can we improve school safety?**

As we work on education we must also consider how to make our schools more safe. That means making our children feel safe among their teachers and peers, but also keeping them safe from outside threat. A big part of ensuring that students feel safe and welcome is by incorporating mental and behavioral wellness, while at the same time addressing bullying. Lastly, we must do more to ensure gun safety to make it harder for children to access and bring guns to school, or from firearms getting in the hands of the wrong people.

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

An issue near to me is disability rights. Currently, as students make their way through public school special education programs, they are not adequately equipped to obtain gainful employment or access post-secondary education. As someone with a history of individuals with disabilities in my family, and having worked for years with students with disabilities, I plan to address three vital parts: inclusive post-secondary education, accessible public transit, and employment first. With these three initiatives, we can tear down some barriers for individuals with disabilities who have the abilities and the desires to be part of our society.

**Please give a 100 word summary on your background:**

Aisha is a professional advocate for immigrant rights at the state Capitol, working with legislators on both sides of the aisle to push for civil rights for immigrants and people of color. As policy director for a nonprofit legal and advocacy center, Aisha monitors local, state, and federal policies that affect immigrants and works to fight for their rights. Aisha is actively involved in her community. She was a co-organizer of Atlanta March for Social Justice & Women, has participated in the Gwinnett Citizens Academy (Fall 2016 Cohort) and served on the Advisory Committee for the Downtown Suwanee Redevelopment Commission (2014 (100)