NAME: Cindy Zedlin
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Insurance Commissioner

Why are you seeking this office?

I am running to be your Insurance Commissioner because our state deserves a real leader who will fight rising insurance costs, help people with their insurance problems, and put your needs first. I come from the nonprofit sector, where I led efforts to educate and assist consumers and to represent their needs in the public policy arena when it comes to insurance, both at the state level and nationally. The Insurance Commissioner's office should be a consumer protection, education, and advocacy agency that Georgians can rely on. I will bring needed insurance expertise and a consumer perspective and will work (100)

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

As Insurance Commissioner, I will provide leadership that will put you and your family first, working every day to make insurance more transparent, affordable, and fair. Georgia's car insurance rate increases are among the highest in the nation. You deserve real oversight to proposed rate increases to ensure you aren't overpaying for car insurance. When it comes to health insurance, Georgians are worried if there will be choices for meaningful coverage at an affordable cost. I will work to stabilize the market, bring carriers back to Georgia, and hold insurance companies accountable for providing access to the health care providers (100)

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I am the only candidate who has consistently stood up for Georgians and your health care needs at the Capitol and in the community. As a nonprofit executive and health insurance expert, I have been an effective advocate for Georgians when it comes to health insurance for many years, and this is precisely the skill set we need in the Insurance Commissioner's office. I will reform the office so consumers, not the big insurance companies, are at its center. This includes reforms to improve the handling of consumer complaints, as well as representing the needs of consumer at the legislature (100)

How can we improve school safety?

Our children don't always feel safe at school, whether it is from fear of gun violence, bullying, or other threats to security. As the mom of a young daughter who will start kindergarten this fall, I want her and her classmates – and every child in our state – to feel safe at school each and every day so they can focus on learning. Partnerships and clear lines of communication between school administrators, teachers, parents,

counselors, and law enforcement agencies are essential to building and implementing school safety plans. The public policy landscape outside those school walls also affects the safety of (100)

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

The stability of Georgia's individual health insurance market is very important to me and to consumers all across our state. This is where people who are self-employed, work in jobs that don't come with health insurance, or piece together part-time jobs go for coverage. They are counting on us to make sure it works. That's why one of my first acts as Insurance Commissioner will be to develop a package of health insurance reforms. These reforms will focus on ensuring meaningful coverage choices, improving stability so that people don't experience disruptions in care, addressing affordability, and putting protections in place (100)

Please give a 100 word summary on your background.

My professional background is in health care policy and advocacy. I hold a graduate degree in Health Policy & Management from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health and an undergraduate degree from Emory University. From 2009 until 2017, when I stepped down to campaign full time for Insurance Commissioner, I served as Executive Director of Georgians for a Healthy Future, a consumer advocacy group. I have built, led, and participated in partnerships to educate and enroll Georgians in health insurance and have represented the needs of Georgia consumers at the Capitol as well as nationally as a consumer representative (100)