

NAME: B.T. Parker
PARTY: Nonpartisan
SEEKING: Superior Court Judge,
(Turner seat)



Why are you seeking the office?

A Superior Court Judge is the only elected official with the legal authority to take away a person's children, property, liberty or life. I take that responsibility very seriously, and have the ability to make tough decisions that are fair, impartial and just. I respect the integrity of the Gwinnett judicial system, and have an even deeper respect for our Constitution, and I want to make sure that every Gwinnettian has the same trust and respect for our court system.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

In addition to being a trial attorney and practicing law in Gwinnett for over 22 years, I am the only candidate seeking this office who has represented both plaintiffs and defendants, and has practiced both civil and criminal law. Only an attorney who has represented people on both sides has the experience to be fair to everyone. I'm committed to serving our children and Gwinnett County as a foster parent, a volunteer attorney with Gwinnett Legal Aid, volunteer attorney for the Gwinnett Truancy Intervention Project, volunteer cheerleading coach for Gwinnett's Grayson Athletic Association, and as President and Chairman of Leadership (100)

What is the proper role of a judge in interpreting the laws and Constitution?

Judges do not legislate. A good judge will not "interpret" laws or the Constitution, but rather seek to apply the law and the Constitution to the unique facts and circumstances of each case before him or her. No matter my personal opinion of any law, it's not up to me, as a Judge, to change it. The rule of law and the words of the Constitution are not changeable in a courtroom –only the facts of each case are different, and Judges must apply the laws to the facts, impartially, fairly and consistently.

What in your life experience makes you believe that you would be a good Judge?

A good Judge must be patient. In addition to being the only candidate with experience in civil and criminal cases, representing both plaintiffs and defendants, I have served as a foster parent to Gwinnett's children, am the mother of a teenage daughter, and am responsible for the education and safety of all the students at Leadership Preparatory Academy. I tell people I have 478 children and one of my

own! I wouldn't be able to take on any of those roles successfully without a lot of patience.

What do you think are the attributes of a good Judge?

Humility and patience, a commitment to fairness, the ability to consider all sides of every argument, the ability to make tough decisions, and a deep understanding that "justice" only exists when it is applied fairly and consistently to every person who interacts with the courts.

Please give a 100-word summary of your background?

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin, Madison, for my Bachelor's in Business Administration and my Juris Doctorate. Moved to Gwinnett County in 1996, and have practiced law here ever since. My husband, daughter, and I live here. I'm committed to serving our children and Gwinnett County as a foster parent, a volunteer attorney with Gwinnett Legal Aid, volunteer attorney with the Gwinnett Truancy Intervention Project, volunteer cheerleading coach for Gwinnett's Grayson Athletic Association, and as President and Chairman of the Board of Leadership Preparatory Academy. I'll bring that same commitment to Gwinnett Superior Court!