

**NAME: Sally Harrell**  
**PARTY: Democratic**  
**SEEKING: Senate, District 40**



**Why are you running for office?**

We are at a crucial moment in Georgia's history. Our demographics are changing and our politics are evolving. Now is the time to stand up, claim our shared values and create change. I believe that government can have a positive impact on people's everyday lives. All our citizens deserve affordable healthcare; universal, quality education; efficient transportation options; and clean air and water. I look forward to working with the people of Senate District 40, shaping an agenda that works to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods and throughout Georgia.

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

Georgia's democracy is at risk. From partisan gerrymandering, the intentional suppression of Georgia's electorate, to outdated and vulnerable voting machines -- the voices of too many Georgians are not being heard. If elected, first and foremost, I will work to protect our democracy.

**What distinguishes your candidacy?**

Having served three terms as a State Representative, I bring experience and knowledge of the legislative process to my candidacy. However, too many legislators get elected and never leave because they don't want to give up the power and prestige of holding office. Living in my community as a regular citizen has enabled me to see exactly what is and isn't working for the people. My vision for improving government is not theoretical. I will bring fresh new ideas based in reality.

**How can we improve school safety?**

As a mother, nothing concerns me more than making sure my kids are safe when they leave my care. I have observed vulnerabilities in school safety first hand. First, due to years of funding cuts, some schools lack secure entry points and locking interior doors. Second, and again due to funding cuts, our school counselors are overloaded, leaving them unable deliver mental health services to students. Finally, gun violence is now a crime of opportunity. Background check loopholes need to be closed, and individuals who are predictably violent should not be allowed to possess firearms.

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

Georgia has one of the highest health uninsured rates in the nation. The impact of this is particularly felt in rural communities, where local hospitals have been shut down and sick people go without care. Stories of untreated disease are heartbreaking. Yet Georgia has chosen to forgo billions of federal dollars to expand Medicaid, which in addition to improving healthcare, could have spurred economic development and jobs. I propose that Georgia expand Medicaid, to not only include a larger population of low-income families, but also to include a public option buy-in for anyone who lacks coverage.

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

Indiana born and Georgia educated, I completed a Bachelor of Social Work at Georgia State University and a Master of Social Work at the University of Georgia. I have worked as a non-profit executive, specializing in child abuse prevention and improving access to healthcare. During my three terms in the Georgia legislature, I served on the Education, Children & Youth, Human Relations & Aging, and Budget committees. My husband, Jay, and I have raised two children in DeKalb county and are about to enter the years of paying college tuition. In our spare time, we enjoy rock climbing and sailing.