

NAME: Sheikh Rahman
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Senate, District 5



Why are you seeking your office?

Gwinnett County is a majority minority county but because of gerrymandered voting districts minorities and people of color have been locked out of state senates, state houses, county commissions, and school board seats. As an immigrant and minority we need to have a seat at the table and that is why I am running and that is why I am fighting a legal battle against Gwinnett's gerrymandered districts. I want to make sure all minorities have a voice.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I would make access to affordable healthcare as a civil right. I will fight for a healthcare system that covers everyone by expanding Medicaid here in Georgia under the current Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). I'll fight for free public community colleges, because on the richest country on Earth everyone should be able to see a doctor and go to college without going bankrupt. I will fight to get big money out of politics and stand up to the NRA, healthcare lobbyists, and all other special interests that flood our state capitols and buy votes with big campaign donations.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I will be the first immigrant elected into the Georgia Senate. As a lifetime NAACP member and from experiencing discrimination myself, I can promise you that no one in the Georgia Senate is going to fight harder than me for the rights of immigrants, minorities, and people of color.

Voting rights: Gwinnet has gerrymandered districts and locked candidates of color out of power even though the majority of the county citizens are minorities.

How can we improve school safety?

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

The loss of the NCR headquarters in Norcross to Midtown Atlanta, and the unwillingness of Amazon to consider Gwinnett has shown a spotlight on our traffic congestion & lack of efficient mass transit. As the fastest growing county in Georgia and one of the fastest growing in the nation, Gwinnett must invest in mass transit that connects the our county with the high-paying jobs throughout the metro area. I

will push for a countywide referendum for voters to decide how much we want to invest in traffic solutions.

Please give a 100 word summary on your background.

I have a classic immigrant story. After finishing high school in Bangladesh, I came America in 1981 in search of the American Dream. My first job was a dishwasher at a steakhouse to pay for my college and pursue my dream. I worked my way up from dishwasher, to manager, to corporate executive, and finally after fourteen years of endurance I graduated from the University of Georgia in 1995. I have been married for 25 years and have a daughter who attends Georgia Gwinnet College and a son in Simonton Elementary School.