

NAME: Chalis Montgomery
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Congress, 10th District



Why are you seeking your office?

I am running for office because lives are at stake. Throughout the district, I constantly hear about difficulties accessing healthcare, often resulting in large medical bills, bankruptcy, and too often, the death of a loved one. We all deserve better than this.

For too long, D.C. has ignored our needs for healthcare, education, infrastructure investment, and good jobs. It's time someone who understands what it's like to struggle under bad public policy went to Washington to try to change things.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I will focus on a bipartisan agenda first, because working together is the fastest way to accomplish our nation's goals. We must pass an infrastructure bill that targets funds to rural development, affordable housing construction, and broadband. Further, while it may take more than two years to pass healthcare that works for everyone, we need to ensure the pharmaceutical companies do not engage in price gouging, and freeze any increases in insurance premiums. Too many people are choosing between healthcare and heat in the winter.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I have spent my life serving others as a music teacher and children's minister. My candidacy is an extension of that service, putting others before self.

I have not waited to run for congress until it is personally or financially convenient. As the mother of a young child with a disability, it's actually quite tough. However, in our family, the right time to do the right thing is always right now. We believe in sacrifice for the greater good.

If elected, I would be the first woman representing the 10th District.

How can we improve school safety?

1. We need more school counselors to help troubled children.
2. As a survivor family member of Moms Demand Action, I advocate for common sense, broadly supported gun reforms.

3. We need to allocate funds to school districts and allow communities to decide how best to keep schools safe. I am not in favor of arming teachers, but I am concerned about federal overreach in this regard and would prefer to allow districts to decide how to use school safety funds.

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

It is time we all had healthcare that works in this country. I am advocating for a program that would cover everyone and include vision, dental, and mental healthcare.

We can achieve this by combining the administrative costs of Medicare, Medicaid, and parts of the VA Medical VA. Additionally, we must preserve the private marketplace and allow consumers to choose supplemental plans as they wish.

Please give a 100 word summary on your background.

I spent my early years in Alabama, but moved away when my parents divorced. As the daughter of a single mother, I know first hand how critical our social safety net is.

I attended the University of Mississippi and GSU on scholarships and Pell Grants, and became a music teacher and children's minister, serving hungry kids and working on behalf of our immigrant community as an advocate with a national coalition of pastors.

I am married to a public school teacher, and our daughter, who suffers from JRA, was a catalyst for my candidacy.