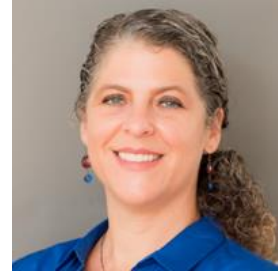


NAME: Kathleen Allen
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Congress, District 7



Why are you seeking your office?

When Rob Woodall declared on a Telephone Town-Hall when talking about the bill to Repeal and Replace the ACA that he, “didn’t have a dog in the fight for every line in every bill,” I thought, “Of course, you don’t. But you have constituents who do, and you’re supposed to represent them, not yourself.” I’ve spent my career in managed healthcare, helping get my nonprofit insurer’s plans on the Exchanges so that tens of thousands of Georgians could buy health insurance. I’m running to represent every constituent of the 7th District. Their issues are my priorities.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I expect to be the change I want to see in Congress. I will practice my values of honesty and empathy, towards my Republican counterparts in the House as much as my Democratic co-workers. I will resist ugly partisanship by focusing on where we can make progress together. I will introduce legislation, and cosponsor bills that Democrats and Republicans put forth, when their goals align with those of my constituents. I will work for responsible progress every day I am in DC, and I will host Town Halls and engage with constituents at every opportunity in the District.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

My candidacy is distinguished in two ways. First, by its focus on my constituents, not donors, and not just voters. My constituents in the 7th District include children not yet old enough to vote, and those who are working to become citizens, eligible to vote. Second, I’m the only candidate who’s worked in managed healthcare, and has subject matter expertise in the ACA, having worked to implement it here in Georgia. I have the background to ask the questions and understand the answers from experts, as we design a healthcare system that works for all Americans.

How can we improve school safety?

We must invest to improve school safety. We need to reduce class sizes, so teachers don’t have so many students that some slip through the cracks of personal attention and support. We need to hire more school counselors, to address the mental health needs of students, as suicides kill more kids than murders, which get more press attention. We need to continue implementing building safety measures and practices. We need to ensure sustained federal funding to support these measures, so the staffing is not dependent on local property tax revenue, leaving some schools less safe than others.

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

Some believe healthcare is a right, others don't. I would argue that Americans have accepted healthcare as a right for the elderly, very poor, and children, through Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP. We must make healthcare a right for all Americans, not dependent on employment status or personal wealth. I'll support legislation to transition to a single-payer system, paid for not through employers, but as Medicare is deducted now, as Medicare for All, but with increased reimbursement rates for providers, which is necessary to ensure we have doctors willing to treat the healthcare needs of all Americans.

Please give a 100 word summary on your background:

I studied Government and French in college, with an emphasis on US Foreign Policy, interning for Congressman Leon Panetta during the Persian Gulf War. I learned from him the first job of a Representative is to be a Listener. I've since spent my career in managed healthcare, managing lobbyists to get Medicaid expanded to cover mental health and substance abuse treatment, and helping implement the ACA in Georgia. I've lived in Norcross for 12 years with my husband, two kids, and father, volunteering in PTA, and in my community to increase racial harmony and reduce homelessness.