

NAME: Carolyn Bourdeaux
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: U.S. House, District 7



Why are you seeking your office?

I believe the people of this district deserve a representative that will fight for their needs and values: affordable quality healthcare, equal access to education, investment in transit, standing up to corporate interests and getting big money out of politics. We also need someone who will be an effective check on the President. Our current Congressman is out of touch with the people of this district. Unlike him, I have spent my career working on policies to make people's lives better and have been spending my campaign listening to the concerns of people in the district.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

My first priority is fixing our healthcare system. I will work to ensure that every man, woman and child has access to affordable, quality health care. This means access to affordable health insurance, expanding Medicaid and reducing the cost of prescription drugs. I also am committed to campaign finance reform, getting corporate money out of politics and aggressively working to help fund a robust transit system in the district.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I have the background and values to be effective on your behalf from day one. I have worked with people of both parties over the years on legislation and policies designed to solve real problems. This is why I have been endorsed by Ambassador Andrew Young, U.S. Senator Max Cleland (Ret.), GA Senator Sam Zamarripa and others. I also have an unwavering commitment to reforming our government itself – getting corporate money out of politics and non-partisan redistricting. I will help secure our future through affordable quality health care and investment in education and infrastructure.

How can we improve school safety?

Schools can and should practice safety measures such as keeping doors locked during school hours and practicing safety drills. The bigger problem, however, is that our country allows far too easy access to weapons of war that have no business in our towns let alone our schools. I grew up with guns and have no objection to hunting, gun collecting, shooting for sport or even defending your home. Nevertheless, we need a ban on military style assault weapons, high capacity magazines and bump stocks. Moreover, we need universal background checks and we need to close the gun show loophole.

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

Every family deserves access to affordable high quality healthcare. As many as 40% of Americans are skipping basic care because they fear how much it will cost (according to a recent Univ. of Chicago poll). This is simply unacceptable. We can and must do better. We should fully implement the ACA, expand Medicaid and introduce a public option so families have a low-cost alternative to private insurance. We also need to reduce the cost of prescription drugs. This can be done by allowing Medicare to negotiate prices and implementing similar bulk purchasing for families with other insurers.

Please give a 100 word summary on your background:

I live with my 6-year-old son and husband in Suwanee. I have spent my career working to improve people's lives. I am a professor at the Andrew Young School at GSU. I served as a legislative aide to several US Representatives and Senator Ron Wyden. I was also the Director of Georgia's Senate Budget and Evaluation Office during the recession where I helped ensure we continued to provide essential services while also balancing the budget. Other projects I have worked on include funding transit, improving access to public health clinics, and needs-based aid for college