

NAME: John Heard
PARTY: Republican
SEEKING: Gwinnett County Commission, Post 4



Why are you seeking your office?

The good news is Gwinnett County is entering a new era of sustained growth and prosperity. The challenge is to maintain and manage that growth, keep the county on a firm economic footing and keep Gwinnett the number one county in Georgia for job and business creation. Gwinnett is riding a new wave of success we could only dream about a few years ago. I've been a Commissioner for almost eight years and want to finish what I helped start and keep Gwinnett moving forward by keeping our governing team intact.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

Over the last 8 years we have worked very hard in a combined effort of the Board of Commission, staff, consultants, and volunteers to bring Gwinnett to a position where businesses are attracted to our pro-business climate. Being the best place to do business in the state and nation is no accident. We have begun many new initiatives for revitalization and job opportunities that need to move forward. I want to be a part of helping push these initiatives to completion and seeing all of Gwinnett succeed.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

People are coming to our great community regardless of what we do. We have to prepare, but I see this as a land use issue. If we allow a continuation of the "sprawl" of the 90's and early 2000's, the issues we are fighting of traffic, crime, high taxes, and overloaded resources will just expand. We must look to an urban approach to accommodate this population increase with high density urban, "walkable centers" as the solutions to avoid these problems. We can then leave the rural flavor that still exists in parts of Gwinnett in place.

How can we improve school safety?

As Commissioner I will continue to work to keep Gwinnett a safe and attractive place to live and work. That means concentrating on essential services like police and fire protection, hospital and health care, traffic management and most importantly stay on the vanguard of technology and innovation. There is a limited amount of input we can have on the actual school campus, but our public safety teams work hand in hand with the school principals, teachers, and safety officers to engage at every opportunity.

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

Prosperity, jobs and growth are the number one issue(s) facing Gwinnett. Growth brings traffic and demands on our infrastructure. Lake Lanier is not only a recreational resource it is essential to our water supply. Our F Wayne Hill Water plant is at the forefront of clean water technology and attracts scientific visitors from all over the world to study how Gwinnett manages our water resources. If we play our cards right, keep taxes low, attract new business and industry we will enable our citizens to ride the river of prosperity that will continue to flow.

Please give a 100 word summary on your background.

I grew up on a farm in Cherokee, Forsyth Counties. I learned that hard work is necessary for success. I attended Cherokee High School, Young Harris Junior College, and Southern Tech. I have worked in design of hotels and schools since 1978. I served in the Georgia house of representative from 2002 through 2008, and have served the last 8 years as your District 4 County Commissioner. My business experience and my state level political background uniquely qualify me to continue to help make Gwinnett the best place in the universe to live and do business.