

NAME: Sam Park
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Georgia House, District 101



Why are you seeking your office?

Two years ago, I ran for office to stand for every Georgian who did not have access to affordable health insurance because my mother's battle against Stage IV cancer taught me that healthcare is a matter of life or death. As a native Georgian, I am running for reelection to put people before politics and invest in our State's most important resource, its people, by continuing the fight to expand Medicaid, support our public schools, and stop harmful legislation that discriminates against communities in Georgia.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

When re-elected, my top three legislative priorities are to expand Medicaid to strengthen our healthcare system; pass comprehensive civil rights legislation to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations; and enact a family work credit to support the middle class. Although ideological differences exist, I expect to make progress on these important issues that transcend partisan politics by working together with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to put people before politics and move our state forward.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

My candidacy for office is distinguished by my commitment to public service, and the political courage I have demonstrated by standing up for underrepresented communities, and leading the fight to defeat harmful, discriminatory legislation. In the House District 101 race, I am also the only candidate with a proven record of fighting to ensure all Georgians have access to healthcare, investing in public education, and working to make certain that every Georgian is treated with equal dignity and respect.

How can we improve school safety?

I believe school safety is a priority, and that we must work with both local and state elected officials to ensure the safety of our students. Common sense gun reform such as enforcing our existing laws and implementing universal background checks will help prevent those who should not have a gun from obtaining one. Understanding and addressing the underlying causes of gang violence and sex trafficking are also critical to protecting our students. Lastly, I believe we must take steps to foster trust and a strong relationship between law enforcement and educators, students, and parents.

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

Georgia has the 4th highest uninsured rate in the country, the highest maternal mortality rate, a rapidly aging population in need of long-term care services, and too many hospitals struggling to stay open due to billions in uncompensated healthcare costs a year.

Expanding Medicaid would go a long toward addressing each of these issues by putting an insurance card in the pockets of more than 500,000 Georgians, creating more than 50,000 healthcare jobs, bringing in billions of federal dollars to address uncompensated costs, and strengthening our Medicaid program, which is the largest provider of long-term care services.

Please give a 100 word summary on your background

Sam is the grandson of refugees from the Korean War, the son of immigrants, and born and raised in Georgia. Sam went to Georgia State University where he got a BA in political science, a BS in economics, and his JD or law degree. He earned his LLM or Masters in Law from Washington College of Law. As a first-time candidate in 2016, Sam unseated a three-term chairwoman and became the first Asian American Democrat and first openly gay man elected to the Georgia State Legislature. Currently, he serves on the Industry and Labor, Small Business, and Intragovernmental Coordination Committees.