

**NAME: Valerie Clark**  
**PARTY: Republican**  
**SEEKING: Georgia House, District 101**



**Why are you seeking your office?**

I am a first generation American with great determination to give back what was given to me and my family. My mother came from Armenia after their home was burned in conflict. She quickly learned English from her teacher who stayed after school to help her. My mom and my Irish immigrant dad succeeded with help from others. I come from strong, determined stock. The American dream which my family and I experienced came with hard work, solid family members and help from the community. I have a commitment to make the lives of our citizens better, easier, and safer.

**What do you expect to accomplish if elected?**

The best education, quality health care that people can afford, and quality jobs and businesses are most important to Gwinnett and to all Georgians. I embrace policies and vote for laws that expand economic opportunities. New businesses and good jobs are welcome here. We must maintain full funding of education and include Pre-K in the formula. Our youngest need a strong start to do their very best in life. Georgians deserve excellent health care that is both accessible and affordable. Mental health should be included in coverage. Expanding choices in coverage and providers will drive prices lower.

**What distinguishes your candidacy?**

I can pass legislation that is good for Gwinnett by working with everyone. Both Republicans and Democrats are signers and supporters of bills I drafted. Many of the laws I brought to a vote came from needs of Gwinnett citizens. Also, I help people - immediately. Sons of an elderly mom called me because of red tape with her benefits. They had hired an attorney for an exorbitant fee. I was able to help in a week. A gentleman called about a delayed tax returned. He received it in days. I will be the advocate for everyone in our district.

**How can we improve school safety?**

A number one priority is a well-trained staff of administrators and teachers and a Crisis Intervention Team. A School Resource Officer should be dedicated to every school, including elementary schools. This school police officer should have an excellent rapport to give students another adult to inform. A counselor dedicated to mental health should be trained to prevent bullying and other issues that have historically provoked an incident. Strategically located high-resolution cameras are needed as well as technology for local anonymous reporting systems. Reporting could occur through an app, hotline, or website.

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

Jobs with good salaries and benefits are a priority. Jobs with benefits would promote better health care for children and families, a win-win. Attracting and keeping good businesses requires low taxes, minimum regulations and a first class educational system. I will be a business-friendly, family-friendly legislator who showcases our strengths. With Gwinnett Tech and Georgia Gwinnett College we can present a well-trained work force. Gwinnett's high school Career Academies, GGC, and Gwinnett Tech will be encouraged to continue targeting needed skills and provide internships to college and high school students. With internships, many students are hired before graduation.

**Summary of Background**

Valerie Clark is a retired educator and was honored to serve as your legislator for six years. She was a teacher in Gwinnett and then principal for Duluth and Shiloh Middle Schools, and Central Gwinnett High School. In her thirty-eight years she was principal of a National and a State School of Excellence. She was awarded a PTA Lifetime Membership. Valerie is a graduate of SUNY Plattsburgh with an M.Ed. from UNC Chapel Hill and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. She is married to Dr. Bob Clark, retired educator, and has two beloved grown children, Pearson and Barrett.