

NAME: Donna McLeod
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Georgia House, District 105



Why are you seeking your office?

Ours is a representative democracy. Unlike other countries, America relies on the people for its success, so in order to have a more perfect union we *must* participate. As a lawmaker, I want our government to be one that the people in my district and throughout Georgia trust. They have to *know* that those whom they have elected to be their voice will help them, in their daily lives, to realize their dreams.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

For me, a priority is working with other concerned lawmakers to expand Medicaid, to ensure that everyone has access to quality, *affordable* healthcare. No one should be burdened by overwhelming medical bills or forced to actually choose between buying either food or life-saving medication.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

My candidacy is more personal in nature, as it's based on grassroots organizing. I believe in *earning* the vote of Gwinnett Countians. In 2016, I knocked on more than 5,000 doors, and spoke face to face with thousands of folks. No worthy candidate can just send out marketing materials, or show up at a few selected events, and then profess to have a realistic, comprehensive grasp of the needs of the people.

How can we improve school safety?

When I became a citizen, I swore to uphold its Constitution. Few aspects of it have generated more conversation or controversy than the 2nd Amendment (one of 27 amendments). Our freedom to bear arms is an important right. However, assault weapons have nothing to do with the tradition of hunting, for self –defense or home protection. Their only purpose is kill many people in a short time – a horrible truth demonstrated time and again in school shootings. Our children are afraid! We need to ban assault weapons, conduct universal background checks, and fund mental health programs to keep our children (100)

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

The power of the vote in a representative democracy: In 2008, we saw our highest turnout in a presidential election -- approximately 63 percent; this is not a passing grade. Our turnout in midterm elections is about 37 percent; and in local city elections, it is dismal. Our country's success depends on our *all* participating, and our elected officials must ensure that district boundary lines are drawn to give people fair and accurate representation.

Please give a 100-word summary on your background

I am a mother, grandmother, and resident of District 105 for the past 18 years. I'm a small-business owner and have a degree in chemical engineering. Since 2008, I have been organizing at the grassroots level, registering new voters (more than 10,000), and educating Gwinnett Countians on local, county, state, and federal government processes. In 2014, I cofounded a nonprofit organization (Community Action Network Initiatives) that encourages civic responsibility and engagement. I am an active member of the Gwinnett County Democratic Party, in which I serve as chair of Community Outreach and Advocacy.