

NAME: Jasmine Clark
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Georgia House, District 108



Why are you seeking your office?

As one trained in science and research, I believe that the abandonment of using actual data and facts to drive policymaking, instead of relying on blind partisanship, is detrimental to too many Georgians. I'm running as the science candidate because I want to get back to facts and data-driven decision making. There are a lot of important issues that affect a lot of lives that should be approached as a "people" issue instead of a "partisan" issue, and I want to bring that voice and perspective to our State legislature.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

A few things I would like to accomplish if elected include:

- Increase access to affordable and quality healthcare to Georgians who have been left behind based on purely partisan decisions.
- Fully fund public school education based on the current QBE formula but also look at updating that formula to 21st century standards.
- Work with lawmakers to continue making progress on transportation options for GA, and Gwinnett County
- Introduce legislation that will begin to restore confidence in our elections, including independent redistricting and updating to verifiable and auditable voting technology

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I'm running as the science candidate because current our State legislature is lacking in a scientific perspective and approach to policymaking. I have a PhD in Microbiology and currently lecture at Emory University. I am not your "usual" candidate. I, however, felt it important that myself and hopefully in the future, those like me, have a seat the table when it comes to making decisions for our State.

How can we improve school safety?

There must be a multi-faceted approach to improving school safety, and it will not be a one-size-fits-all type of solution. We must address threats to school safety from both inside and outside of the school. From inside we must address issues such as bullying and the lack of resources for schools when it comes to dealing with mental health issues. From the outside, we must protect our students from intruders that wish to do them harm. This includes looking at security measures on campuses as well as looking at our gun laws in the State.

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

Education

- Reject cuts to funding of public schools
- Update the QBE formula (instituted in 1986) to 21st century standards
- Increase teacher pay, which can residually address teacher shortages and boost recruitment and retention of quality educators
- Expand GA Pre-K so that all of GA's students have access
- Expand HOPE scholarship or institute a need-based scholarship in GA
- Expand scholarships and grants for technical school to meet growing demand for individuals in technology fields

Please give a 100 word summary on your background

I am a published scientist currently serving as a lecturer at Emory University of Microbiology and Human Anatomy and Physiology. I earned my PhD in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics from Emory University in 2014. Outside of my career in academia, I have done some community organizing, leading the Atlanta March for Science on Earth Day in 2017 and currently serving as the Co-Director of Community Engagement for the Georgia Alliance for Social Justice. I am a concern citizen and science nerd, turned first time candidate, ready to represent my district and move Georgia forward.