

NAME: Renee S. Unterman
PARTY: Republican
SEEKING: Georgia Senate, District 45



Why are you seeking office?

The same reason as when I first ran for office as Mayor of the City of Loganville - to become the best public servant helping people solve problems, improve government accountability and transparency, and improve our quality of life in Gwinnett County.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I expect to accomplish continued constituent services for Senate District 45. I will also continue working on healthcare delivery systems and physical and mental health reformation, improvements for substance abuse disorders, public health preventive measures, and continue pursuing the initiatives I started on sexual and labor trafficking of Georgians. Transportation and tax reform initiatives will also continue to be top priorities in order to maintain our status as the number one state in the country to do business.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

My years of experience in local and state government combined with my aggressive results oriented work ethic distinguishes me above other candidates. I value best practice solutions, less invasive government with cost benefit analysis always being a priority.

How can we improve school safety?

The Senate currently has a study committee that is examining this issue around the state and will prepare their report for the 2019 legislative session with recommended solutions, improvements for all Georgia Boards of Education, including the largest student population in the state - Gwinnett County and also the City of Buford schools. I will evaluate their recommendations and work to pass the necessary public policy changes. I believe we must first improve mental health service delivery systems for children and adults to lessen incidences of tragedy before they occur and enhance access to therapeutic behavioral healthcare. Physical building safety improvements to local districts must be supported by the state and also implementing standardized statewide safety protocols.

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

I will continue working on the Georgia opioid epidemic and substance abuse addiction problems of vulnerable Georgians. Approximately 72,000 Americans including 1,043 Georgians died last year from addiction disease. Georgia allocated over \$11.2 million this past budget cycle for community recovery centers like Navigate in Gwinnett, peer to peer

support programs in emergency hospital departments, and education counseling programs for high risk mothers and babies in neonatal intensive care units. I will continue working on innovative recovery models such as these that were created in my appropriated budget while also supporting state and local law enforcement officials in curbing supply of street drugs like heroin and fentanyl derivatives.

Please give a 100 word summary on your background.

My legislative voting and law writing experience reflects interests assisting vulnerable citizen populations, Georgia consumers, and healthcare service delivery systems. As vice-chair of appropriations for six years, I have focused funds to correlate with respective law changes and systems of care. Some of these include: elder law for exploitation both physical and financial, child abuse, child sexual exploitation and human trafficking, surprise medical bills, animal law protections, food insecurities, foster care and adoption, Autism, behavioral health and public health reorganization, grandparents raising grandchildren, tax laws including TAVT and pro-life issues.