

**NAME: Zahra Karinshak**  
**PARTY: Democratic**  
**SEEKING: Georgia Senate, District 48**



**Why are you seeking your office?**

My two daughters inspired me to run. During the 2016 election, they observed that “no one is being kind to each other and you, mom, have to do something to bring us together.” They are right. Politics has turned too divisive and partisanship runs deep. I am running to bridge the political divide and restore trust, civility, and kindness back into our public discourse. Furthermore, my experience as an Air Force Academy graduate, military veteran, former federal prosecutor, and whistleblower attorney makes me the ideal candidate to serve our community.

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

Based on the feedback I have received from knocking thousands of doors, I plan to improve our quality of life by: 1) securing our neighborhoods and schools; 2) ensuring access to high quality and affordable healthcare; 3) fully funding public education and lowering the cost of college tuition so every child has access to a world class education; and 4) growing our regional economy by incentivizing small business growth, job creation, and strong wages. These will be my priorities in the Senate.

**What distinguishes your candidacy?**

I am not a politician and have lived a lifetime of service.

- 1) I am a military veteran; seven of nine siblings in our family are veterans.
- 2) As a former prosecutor, I have criminal justice experience and the ability to work with law enforcement.
- 3) As the daughter of an immigrant, I understand the challenges of adapting to a new country.
- 4) I am a mother and wife and have been engaged in our community for 24+ years.
- 5) Party labels and ideology will not bind me. I will work with all my constituents to move our state forward.

**How can we improve school safety?**

As a former federal prosecutor, I understand how to keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of violent criminals and out of our schools. To do so, I support increased safety measures at all schools such as the hiring of additional security personnel and by providing teachers and counselors the resources they need to identify troubled students. I do not support arming teachers as others have proposed.

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

Improving our education system is one of my top priorities in the Senate. The QBE, which is the formula used to fund public education, has not been updated since 1985. This is unacceptable. I will work to revise the formula to fully fund our schools. We need to give students a 21<sup>st</sup> century education so they are equipped to compete in the world economy. Likewise, I will advocate for the legislature to provide the resources teachers need in the classroom to shrink class sizes and to reduce the amount of standardized testing.

**Please give a 100-word summary on your background.**

As an Air Force Academy graduate, military veteran, former federal prosecutor, and whistleblower attorney, I bring a lifetime of service and leadership to bear. From my humble beginnings in rural Georgia, I learned the values of honesty, hard work, and selflessness. These values were honed by the military and form my collaborative leadership style and commitment to community. As a prosecutor, I sought justice for victims of violent crime and fraudsters. Today, I represent whistleblowers, saving taxpayers hundreds millions of dollars by promoting transparency and exposing corruption in government. Visit [votazahra.com](http://votazahra.com) to learn more and to join our team.