

NAME: Rosanna M. Szabo
PARTY: Republican
SEEKING: Gwinnett Solicitor-General



Why are you seeking your office?

No work has given me more satisfaction than helping the people of this community at a moment in their life when they're experiencing a crisis. These moments can be transformative. Helping people correct bad choices ultimately serves the highest and best purpose of the justice system and the community. While defense attorneys zealously pursue the singular best interest of their client, prosecutors pursue the public interest; to serve justice. As a prosecutor, I get to do the right thing every time. I've remained committed to that mission for 30 years and never felt the call to try something different.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

Full implementation of GCPD and GCSO body worn camera project; creating procedures and protocols for the collection, storage, and sharing of the data will enhance the available evidence in our courtrooms and ensure the public's confidence that justice is done. Transitioning our case management system to integrate with prosecutor's offices throughout the State will result in improved inter-agency information sharing and efficiency. Implement a text message alert system to notify 35,000 witnesses subpoenaed each year when they are required for court. It is important to be respectful of their time and make their service as non-disruptive as possible.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I have never sought other public office(s). I've been committed to being a prosecutor for 30 years. I've developed an EXPERTISE with 300+ jury trials and 100+ appeals. I have LEADERSHIP experience serving 10 years as Chief Assistant before being elected Solicitor in 2006. In addition to a BA in Business Administration, I'm a graduate of Leadership Gwinnet and UGA Lead Academy. I have a long history of COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT including; PTA, Central Gwinnett HS Booster, Rotary, YMCA, Gwinnett Coalition HHS, and United Way. I'm wife to a retired GCPD Officer and Army Pilot, and mother to two adult children.

How can we improve school safety?

Identify mental health cases. Divert to a treatment (mental health) court model to provide community based treatment and wrap around services. Provide supervision and monitoring to assure treatment plan and medication compliance. Remove/Prohibit possession of weapons as a condition of bond or sentence and notify probate court (red flag) in case a permit is sought. Coordinate with school counselors to develop programing

to address bullying and non-violent conflict resolution skills. These are all measures that we've already undertaken. I would defer questions of hard security to the expertise of the Sheriff or Police. This is a prosecutor's office.

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

One of our greatest challenges is our unusually robust appellate practice. Gwinnett Courts are often the testing ground for new legal arguments. We've had more than 50 appeals in the past 36 months, 17 in the Supreme Court, with 9 more pending. All of these have statewide implications and filter down to trial courtrooms and police practices. Our attorneys must stay prepared to argue emergent legal theories every day. We have prepared position papers, brief assistance, practice benches, and on-going training for police and prosecutors. Appellate EXPERIENCE will greatly effect these outcomes.

Please give a 100 word summary on your background

I began in private practice, then served as Assistant District Attorney, and landed in the Solicitor's Office in 1989. I've done every job in the office from answering phones, to arguing cases before the Supreme Court, managing the budget, and leading a staff of 58 exceptional public servants. I have experience delivering justice services efficiently and effectively to 8,000 victims, 10,000 defendants, 35,000 witnesses, and 100,000 ordinance violators each year. I am an expert having taught and written on DUI, domestic violence, traffic law, and trial practice. The Prosecuting Attorney's Council has recognized me as Georgia's Solicitor-General of the Year.