

NAME: **Derrick Wilson**
PARTY: **Democratic**
SEEKING: **Commission District 3**

1. Why are you seeking your office?

Being involved in my community, I see what the community needs and where an advocate is needed. I believe the perspectives of the diverse cultures spread throughout our county are being ignored. Gwinnett County has become a minority-majority county, and in some aspects, the minority representation is still missing, I believe I can be that representative to bridge that gap. I believe in being involved to make a change and giving the underprivileged an avenue to be heard.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

My goal is to provide affordable housing to our homeless population, an all-inclusive transit system, and develop more economic opportunities. I would also like to implement the signing of a Nondiscrimination Ordinance; the creation of The Gwinnett Small Business Certification Program; Diversity and Mental Health training for all law enforcement agencies and first responders; proper funding of the Gwinnett County library system to combat childhood illiteracy.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

Upon winning the election, I'd be one of the youngest Commissioners for Gwinnett County which provides me with a unique perspective and familiarity of the inner workings of technology, government, and society. I started my campaign by getting to know the people I represent, and I will continue with that plan until the end. Events hosted for me have created a platform for me to get to know the residents in my district and hear the issues that are important to them. They can also ask any questions they of me, my perspective, and what I seek to accomplish.

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

One of the biggest issues is the large number of homeless veterans and the lack of affordable housing. Gwinnett County is the home of over 50,000 veterans, with an estimated 10,000 being homeless. The lack of affordable housing has forced a large number of residents, including veterans, to live in motels for an extended period of time. My campaign is seeking to create collaborative efforts between private and interjurisdictional agreements that will bring the costs of development to a more affordable rate within the county.

5. Suggest ways to jump-start the economy after COVID-19.

I suggest the county partner with the local Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) to develop and administer an economic loan program. It would help businesses impacted by the pandemic by offering zero-interest, 5 year term loans, with a forgiveness component to meet ordinary and necessary operating expenses and obligations. The program is designed to bring financial relief to small businesses who have sustained significant economic injury. The funds can be used to cover working capital costs, such as payroll, accounts payable, rent, mortgage and other necessary expenses. The goal is to help them survive during the crisis and resume normal operations.

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

Derrick J. Wilson was born in Houston, Texas and educated within the Houston Independent School District where he graduated from Westbury High School. He studied Political Science at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, TX and currently studying Accounting at Strayer University in Lithonia, Ga. A loving husband, devoted father, and serial entrepreneur, Derrick believes in hard work and knows the difficulties of making sacrifices. He started his first company at 21, and his experiences have taught him the importance of budgeting, executive decision-making skills, and how to implement initiatives beneficial for the present and future of our community.