

NAME: Jasper Watkins III
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Commission Post 3

1. Why are you seeking your office?

In 2016, over 49% of Gwinnettians had enough trust in me to get-out-to-vote, and therefore I am compelled to relaunch my campaign to become the next District 3 Commissioner on the Gwinnett County Commission. Moreover, I am running for commissioner of Gwinnett County District 3 because our district deserves bold leadership to discuss and put forth the measures to improve and, in some cases, fix the immediate issues facing our region. My leadership skills as a former Executive Army Officer, and since then, I have incorporated a more holistic approach to management, which is paramount to making the change that (100)...

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I expect to maintain a strong financial position that is balanced against needs such as transportation improvements, infrastructure revitalization, and growing wages while shrinking inequities. As in 2016, my primary focus will address our transportation infrastructure. This is a public safety, economical and quality of life issue. Clogged and unsafe roadways are already impacting our ability to sustain and attract fortune 500 companies and real estate industries. I believe the county government should first provide essential services, including public safety and roads. Implementing or bringing rail into the county are examples of transit choices needed to ease the commute and (100)...

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I am a father, registered pharmacist, licensed nuclear pharmacist, minority small business owner, and retired army officer. As a community leader, I am a Rotarian, member of several organizations: Medical Reserve Corps, Gwinnett Chamber, VFW-American Legion, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Grad chapter, Berean Christian Church Veteran Ministry, just to mention a few. So, as you can see, I have and am devoting my life to serving my community and defending our nation. I have a reputation for identifying and solving complex problems, being a diplomatically assertive, and a goal-oriented leader, able to make hard decisions and being highly sensitive to (100)...

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

The success of Gwinnett County in the last decade has been nothing short fabulous. Our economy is thriving, our schools and government entities are on sound footing, and we are developing a beautiful rainbow of races and cultures that are enriching us. That success, however, has brought us to a historical crossroads. As outlined in the 2040 Unified Plan, the price for our continued

success includes clear answers when it comes to economic development that benefits the entire community, safer neighborhoods, livable wages, affordable housing options, increased transportation options, and inclusion regardless of gender, beliefs, race or culture. However, I (100)...

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

If I may take a different approach, somewhat, in the direction of sustaining a healthy county while stabilizing our economy, when assessing an event, one must be conscious of the Disaster Management Cycle evolution process (Preparation, Response, Recovery, Mitigation) particularly the portion known as "Recovery/Mitigation. Being a Health Care Professional-Tried and Tested (SARS, H5N1, H1N1, MERS, ZIKA), I am keenly aware of the disaster cycle process. I agree that we should continue practicing Community mitigation aims to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. It is time for our elected officials to move through the Response cycle, make the (100)...

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

JASPER WATKINS III is a retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel with more than 35 years of federal healthcare leadership experience and 10 years at the executive level of federal and state pharmaceutical enterprises. He is a registered pharmacist and licensed nuclear pharmacist with proven senior-level expertise in policy formulation, state coalition building, public, and legislative relations. During the 9-11 attack on the Pentagon, he supported the placement recovery operations of injured active duty / DOD civilians at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and immediately after Hurricane Katrina, his pharmacy provided pharmaceutical support and medical resupply for operations in the area.