

**NAME:** Nakita Hemingway  
**PARTY:** Democratic  
**SEEKING:** House District 104

**1. Why are you seeking your office?**

I care about producing results, not grandstanding. I am an entrepreneur and mother who never sought to be a politician. Existing leaders in our community saw my fight against Gwinnett County's zoning board - some commissioners used repressive tactics to prevent me from developing a flower farm on my family's property - and that encouraged me to run. The experience opened my eyes to what I view as a silent attack against our land use rights, civil rights, and civil liberties. My candidacy is about giving citizens a voice, and to pass laws that benefit the many, not the few.

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

I hope to help restore faith in the government's ability to put people - not party or special interest groups - first. I want to build bridges in Georgia's General Assembly to pass laws that create the greatest amount of good, for the greatest amount of people. The answer to solving the numerous challenges impacting the success and wellbeing of Georgia citizens is by electing leaders who will apply unconventional wisdom to solve today's problems and deliver tomorrow's solutions. All my life I've had to think differently to achieve my goals, and I'll continue fighting for you if elected.

**3. What distinguishes your candidacy?**

The people of Dacula and the surrounding area face real challenges. Affordable healthcare and affordable housing are all basic human rights, and the ability to make a living is fundamental to us all. I'm running because I've faced these challenges too. I know first-hand that we need government to work for us, not against us. I'm resilient and hard-working, but more importantly innovative. Our small/microbusinesses should have equal opportunity. Our education system should work for everyone, and we must support teachers. We need novel, forward thinking solutions, and I'll work with anyone from any party to achieve our goals.

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

Georgia Code § 36-66-3 gives local government unlimited power to pass zoning restrictions on land. The laws of our state provide no protection to citizens when these entities abuse their power or act corruptly. In fact, there are laws that grant immunity and provide for legal defenses at tax-payer expense. While I want local municipalities to continue to have

zoning authority, I want to implement measures that will limit their power or hold individuals accountable for abusive actions.

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

We must focus relentlessly on supporting small businesses. Small businesses are bearing the brunt of the COVID depression, and as of today nearly 20% of our workforce is unemployed. Many small businesses have already gone under, and these are the places where our neighbors work and we shop. After the last recession, large companies with access to capital were able to gobble up everything after we hit rock-bottom, making it even harder for the little guy to get somewhere. Georgia must create aggressive lending programs for small businesses, clear red-tape hurdles to starting new businesses, and invest in the future.

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

I'm from Georgia – born in Savannah, grew up in Dekalb, and have lived in Gwinnett since 2000. I attended Georgia State where I studied Real Estate and earned a degree in Finance from American Intercontinental University. I started my first business at age 22 and have also held positions in corporate America. Both of my parents were entrepreneurs. My mother owned a salon and my father operated a trucking business after his retirement from the army. I'm the mother of 4 – 3 boys, 1 girl –my loving husband Jonathan is a former teacher, coach and currently owns a small business.