

**NAME:** Curtis Clemons  
**PARTY:** Democratic  
**SEEKING:** Gwinnett County Sheriff

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

I am seeking to be the next Gwinnett Sheriff because I believe in the promise of Gwinnett's brand, a multi-colored kaleidoscope representing multi-cultural diversity. The adjoining motto is that we are "vibrantly connected." The Gwinnett County of 30 years ago when I started my career in law enforcement, is not the Gwinnett County of today. I can serve Gwinnett County and be a good steward of the Sheriff's Department personnel and resources. I can bring back respectable leadership and inclusive community positive interactions to all of Gwinnett's citizens. I believe it's time for Gwinnett to live up to its motto.

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

As Sheriff of Gwinnett, I expect to accomplish several goals. I would ensure all sheriff's deputies are trained in crisis intervention to distinguish between people displaying bad behavior from those suffering from a mental crisis or are autistic. The second goal would be accomplished because of this training. That goal is to reduce and ultimately eliminate the many lawsuits regarding unwarranted excessive force that Gwinnett taxpayers will have to pay because of lack of leadership in the current administration. Finally, I will build bridges with law enforcement and all communities to build trust and teamwork to combat crime.

**3. What distinguishes your candidacy?**

There are several critical factors that distinguish my candidacy from all other candidates for Sheriff. I have experience at the Sheriff's Department as a supervisor, and as a police officer with Gwinnett County Police, where I rose from a rookie officer to the Command staff level of Assistant Chief of Police. As Assistant Chief I facilitated an annual budget of \$131,000,000 dollars. I managed training for officers, the E-911 system, Fleet vehicle purchases, and the Emergency Operations Center for Gwinnett County. No other candidate has my knowledge, experience and proven leadership to effectively guide the Sheriff's Office on day one.

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

**Gwinnett Jail Conditions** –the Gwinnett Sheriff oversees over 2,000 individuals detained daily. The Sheriff faces nearly 100 lawsuits for excessive force by his Rapid Response Team, who respond in riot gear, even in medical emergencies instead of seeking the appropriate medical care. I will implement Crisis Intervention Teams

and training for deputies to address detainees experiencing a mental health crisis, to de-escalate volatile situations and reduce excessive violence lawsuits. Eliminate the restraint chair and dissolve the RRT tactical team which has evolved into an undisciplined “goon squad.” I will provide detainees with humane treatment, quality medical staff and personnel accountability.

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

Although not in the purview of the duties of the Sheriff of the county, I think ways to jumpstart Gwinnett’s and the state’s economy after COVID-19, include the building of affordable housing for families and veterans. Many employees can’t afford to live in the counties where they work, and our veterans are often forgotten, becoming homeless. This could provide homes and jobs for both.

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

I am a father of two adult children, and I love Gwinnett County. I believe in hard work, treating people fairly, and giving back to the community through military service, law enforcement, and strong Christian values. I am a U. S. Marine Corps veteran and a youth mentor. I have 30 years’ experience, as a Gwinnett Deputy Sheriff and Police officer, ultimately becoming Assistant Chief of Gwinnett Police. I am the recipient of the 2018 Most Distinguished Alumni Award from Shorter University for Community Service. A graduate of the FBI’s Law Enforcement Executive Leadership program. Has a Masters in Leadership.