

NAME: Gregg Kennard
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: House District 102

1. Why are you seeking your office?

I have served in the non-profit space my entire career, and now understand the connective tissue between my work with the poor/marginalized and policy/legislation. Poverty is both behavioral and structural. The program, of which I am the director, addresses individual behavior, my state work would address the structural components of it.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

Develop policy and legislation that addresses the gaps: wealth, education, health, home-ownership, criminal justice, etc. between many Georgians. I want to participate in the reimagining of a more equitable state and see all hard-working Georgians participate in the American dream.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

As a pastor, non-profit director, community leader, and life-long Georgian/Gwinnettian, I have a unique perspective with a wide spectrum of people, along with a 54-year look of this state and county. I know where we've been, where we are, and believe our best days are ahead.

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

Third-grade reading level is an accurate predictor. If a third-grader isn't reading on level, they are exponentially more likely to experience dropping from school, teen pregnancy, poverty, poor health, and incarceration. Currently, two-thirds of Georgia third-graders are not reading on level. We already spend money on this problem through the Department of Corrections. Most of our prisoners are school dropouts. I propose, across 5 years, to reallocate 20% of our Corrections budget to mandatory, universal PreK/kindergarten to give all of our students, the jumpstart needed to correct this deficit. If done, we will not need as many prisons.

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

Invest in energy efficient homes and business buildings, both new builds and conversions. We not only improve the environment, but create thousands of jobs.

Expand Medicaid. It will instantly cover hundreds of thousands of Georgians who are currently uninsured and put money in our medical industry, save our rural hospitals, and create more medical jobs.

Make technical college more affordable, if not altogether free right now. It assists our citizens in retooling for a post-Covid economy, and creates a greater, trained workforce to attract more businesses and jobs to our state.

6. Please give a 100 word summary on your background

I was born in Atlanta in 1966 and was raised in Gwinnett County. Graduating Parkview HS in 1984, I went to bible school, and have served as a vocational minister for over 30 years. I am married to my best friend, Pam, for 29 years, and we have three daughters, Alex, Abbe, Anna. All three graduated from Collins Hill HS, and two teach for GCPS. I am also the pastor/executive director for NSPIRE Outreach, a church working to end homelessness and domestic violence. Three years ago I was certified as a John Maxwell Life Coach.