

*2020 GwinnettForum candidate questionnaire*

**NAME: Kim Jackson**  
**PARTY: Democratic**  
**SEEKING: Senate District 41**

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

I am running because I want to ensure that every Georgian has the opportunity to thrive. I know that if we work together, we can make a safer, fairer, and more prosperous Georgia. I'm also running because I've been leading protests and rallies on the Capitol steps for over 15 years. I've stood up for equal rights and for criminal justice reform. It's time to take my activism and advocacy from in front of the Capitol to the inside. The people of District 41 need a leader who will serve with excellence, diligence, and integrity. I am that person.

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

I will be a voice and advocate for the people of District 41. I'm especially interested in working on the following issues: Public education reform: Georgia needs to update the formula for how we distribute funds to schools. Expansion of Medicaid: too many people are not receiving the medical care that they so desperately need because we have refused to expand Medicaid. Protection of Reproductive Rights: we need to rollback anti-choice legislation. Criminal Justice Reform: we must continue Governor Nathan Deal's legacy of reducing the incarceration rate in our state.

**3. What distinguishes your candidacy?**

I already know how to get things accomplished in the Georgia Capitol. In 2016, working with a small team of colleagues, I successfully helped the Pursuing Justice for Rape Victims Act become state law. We strategized, collaborated, and successfully lobbied legislators to pass the bill so that untested rape kits across Georgia are now being counted and processed.

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

In the state of Georgia, speeding or simply failing to use your turn signal while driving is considered a criminal offense. In other words, you can actually go to jail for not using your turn signal! Most of us pay our tickets and never receive a bench warrant or spend time behind bars. But for those who simply cannot afford to pay, the consequences can be financially devastating. I will work to pass a bill that simply decriminalizes minor traffic offenses. You would need to pay your ticket, but it would be a civil matter instead of criminal.

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

Can we start by giving bonuses to the people who kept our grocery stores stocked, delivered things to our doors, and paved our streets while were at safe at home? These people are often classified as “low wage earners,” and they deserve a bonus! On a more systemic level, I believe that we need a “New Deal” type federal jobs program that puts millions of people back to work with a living wage.

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

I am an Episcopal priest from the rural South. After graduating from Furman University, I moved to Georgia, volunteered as an EMT, and led my colleagues at Emory's School of Theology in advocating for Criminal Justice Reform. During ten years of ministry, I've served as a college chaplain, a parish priest, and a social justice advocate.

In 2018, the Georgia House of Representatives commended me for my “tireless efforts on behalf of the disenfranchised, disenchanted, and dispossessed” (House Resolution 1188).

I am now pastor of Common Ground, a church that serves people experiencing homelessness. Learn more at: [kimforgeorgia.com](http://kimforgeorgia.com).