

*2020 GwinnettForum candidate questionnaire*

**NAME: Deborah Jackson**  
**PARTY: Democratic**  
**SEEKING: U.S. Senate (Isakson seat)**

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

After serving as a mayor for the past 8 years and accomplishing projects such as the redevelopment of a dilapidated city-owned property into a \$12 million affordable housing project and improving the quality of life, I want to take my experience and expertise to Washington to address the problems affecting the people of Georgia. I believe it is important to have elected representatives with records of meaningful work in the community and the ability to understand the needs of ordinary citizens.

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

As the Senator for Georgia, I have several goals to accomplish immediately - (1) passage of legislation to provide continuing support to families, individuals and small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; (2) passage of legislation to restore and expand access to the Affordable Care Act, while reviewing options to ensure universal healthcare; and (3) passage of the 2020 Voting Rights Act to restore the provisions that were eliminated in the 2013 US Supreme Court decision. There should not be any impediments to the right to vote.

**3. What distinguishes your candidacy?**

My candidacy is distinguished from the others by the fact that I have served both as a mayor and city council member. As a result, I had the opportunity to gain actual and practical experience in managing a governing body; representing the interests and concerns of citizens; drafting and implementing legislation; advocating public policy positions; serving on planning groups; and developing short- and long-term strategies to address issues such as housing, business development, employment and job-training, food security, and citizen engagement. It is important to have an elected representative with real and meaningful experience to do the job.

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

As a country, we need a truly representative democracy and economic system. Too often, government has focused on the interests of the wealthy and not the needs of

the poor and those in between. Big money interests get to influence the type of legislation that becomes law. Although the average salary of the CEO of a major corporation is 300 times more than that of the average worker; yet, workers pay a higher percentage of their salary in taxes. We must rethink how the economy can be structured to eliminate the disparities that exist and exasperated by the pandemic.

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

Some of the ways to jump-start the economy due to COVID-19 include having consistent messaging about the public health requirements to control spread of the coronavirus; extending the supplemental unemployment benefits to individuals who have lost their jobs and are at-risk of losing their housing; providing additional stimulus payments to families and individuals; providing financial and technical assistance to small businesses; and ensuring that the necessary testing and personal protective equipment (PPE) is available. These steps will help meet basic needs as well provide a stimulus for the economy.

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

Deborah Jackson, experienced attorney, committed community advocate, and public servant. Elected Lithonia Mayor for two terms after serving on City Council. Worked diligently to improve the quality of life. Under Deborah's leadership, the city became a leader in the region; the minimum wage was raised to \$15 hour for city employees; a dilapidated city property was redeveloped into \$12 million affordable rental housing units. As Mayor, served on Federal and Legislative Policy Councils of Georgia Municipal Association (GMA).

Her community service includes:

- Board Member, Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance
- CASA Volunteer, DeKalb County (Court Appointed Special Advocate)