

*2020 GwinnettForum candidate questionnaire*

**NAME: Johnny D. Crist**  
**PARTY: Republican**  
**SEEKING: House District 108**

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

The changes that have marked our county four decades ago when we moved here have been nothing short of astounding. But with all the changes Gwinnett County still remains a place where businesses prosper, safety is a lifestyle and family values are embraced. I share those values and want to speak on behalf of our community to state issues that affect each of us.

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

Because so many folks hold such a low view of politicians and the state legislature I would like to be known as a legislator who works with people and not against them. While we all hold differing positions on a host of issues I will work hard with both sides to find meaningful, life-giving solutions to make the lives of all Georgians better!!

**3. What distinguishes your candidacy?**

As the Mayor of Lilburn for the past eight years I have had extraordinary leadership experiences. These experiences have extended well outside the boundaries of our city to include the county, region and state. I am a 2018 Graduate of Leadership Gwinnett, received 80 units of classroom credit from Ga. Municipal Association, involved in Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, Regional Leadership Institute, became a board member of the Gwinnett Mayors Association and elected the President of the Ga. Mayors Association for our district ~ and attended hundreds of meetings to serve the city, county and state that I love.

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

There is a particular issue that seems to evade the consciousness of many of us. That is the problem of human trafficking. This is a very real danger for all of us in Gwinnett County because it is a reality here. I would like to be appointed to a committee that directly responds to this crisis, fund the initiatives that find and stop traffickers and create pathways to restore the lives of those it has crushed.

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

As a homeowner I have made it my practice to plant tomatoes as my annual spring ritual. I plant the young tomato stalks in the ground with fertilizers, water them in and watch them grow. Somehow they grow all by themselves. I simply water them and wait.

This is how it should be in our business community.

Partnership Gwinnett finds and plants businesses in our county. The Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce regularly waters the business culture. Then we get government get out of the way and watch businesses grow “all by themselves”.

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

After graduate school my wife Anne and I relocated to Gwinnett County in 1982. We raised our 8 children here. My service to the community stems from a deep conviction that “good neighbors make good neighborhoods”. So my journey into the political arena was launched by a simple conviction to engage in and care for our neighbors. Little did I know that my desire to serve would lead me to 4 years on the Lilburn City Council, 8 years as Mayor and now the opportunity to serve in the Ga. State House of Representatives.