

NAME: Erick Dierks
PARTY: Republican
SEEKING: House District 105

1. Why are you seeking your office?

Having worked in both government and the private sector over the past 40 years, I would like to devote my time in retirement to public service. I have always been active in the study of politics and public policy and believe that I can provide a representation for the vast majority of people in House District 105 that best reflects their views and addresses their concerns. We are in need of honest and thoughtful government.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

Having witnessed how politics has lately served to the detriment of governmental effectiveness, I would approach serving in the General Assembly with a mind towards building consensus and compromise. If elected I would seek to participate in reducing wasteful costs in governmental operations and streamline efficiencies so that we can offer better, more reliable services to the Georgia citizenry. I hope to explore and address other ways to provide services without necessarily needing to increase taxation.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I have been fortunate to have worked in both the government and corporate America, and through this experience have developed an appreciation for how both arenas can come together in mutual benefit to the state and to our nation. I have in my lifetime visited 62 different countries, which has also provided me with an appreciation for cultural diversity and the need to find common interests in each community for economic and social well-being.

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

My background is in executive law enforcement, and I believe that there is a need for some reform in policing, but we also need to enhance the ability of those in law enforcement to do their jobs effectively, as safe as possible, and with respect that is deserved. I would like to re-examine the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Act, and other Georgia codes to assist in revising legislation that would serve to recruit and train the very best candidates for these careers. Without safe and secure communities, no other economic or social system can expect to thrive.

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

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of life for most, if not all Georgians. Government should continue to provide services in testing and managing the pandemic through adopted public health programs but defer from mandating or legislating behaviors. I believe that people should generally take responsibility for their own health conduct, and for those who they are responsible for caring. In a free-enterprise system, the government's influence in the exchange of goods and services should be minimal.

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

I have lived in Gwinnett County for over 30 years and served in both county and state law enforcement for a period of 20 years. Following the 1996 Summer Olympics, I was employed in corporate security with The Coca-Cola Company which afforded the opportunity to travel to 62 countries in my 20 years there. I am a graduate of Georgia State University and the FBI National Academy, and my wife Diane and I are members of New City Church (PCA) in Lawrenceville, and besides church, perform voluntary work with the Gwinnett County Juvenile Court (CASA) and the Path Project.