

2020 GwinnettForum candidate questionnaire

NAME: P.K. Martin, IV
PARTY: Republican
SEEKING: Senate District 9

1. Why are you seeking your office?

I've served for 6 years in the Georgia Senate. During that time, I've sought to find solutions to problems that our community face. I've been open, accessible and willing to listen to those I represent. I have worked across party lines to do what is best for our community and state. Now more than ever we need someone who is capable, someone who can fight for our community and provide the leadership we need as we emerge from this Covid-19 pandemic stronger than ever.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I will continue to have a large influence on education policy in our state. I have enjoyed over the past two years working with teachers, administrators, parents and students from around the state to try to put in place policies that allow students to pursue their dreams. We have more jobs in technology and stem related fields than we have qualified workers to fill them. There is great opportunity, but we must prepare our students for these jobs of the 21st century economy.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I have served for six years at the state level and eight years on the Lawrenceville City Council. During my time in the state legislature, I have served as a deputy whip, Floor Leader for Governor Deal and for the past two years as Chairman of Senate Education and Youth. I have the experience we need to represent our community and to lead in uncertain times with practical and results driven leadership.

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

It's more than an issue. This election is about a choice between a radical agenda that will cripple our future or keeping sensible leadership that will continue Georgia's success. I've been proud to support efforts that have led to 10,000 new jobs recently during a pandemic, reforming Georgia's healthcare system, ending surprise medical billing and reducing prescription drug costs, reducing student testing, supporting those who keep us safe, and raising teacher pay. I'm ready to continue that leadership.

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

The key is to safely keep the economy open. We must act responsibly as individuals to prevent future spikes, so that our economy can repair itself and we can get back to work. Even as we come out of the Covid-19 shutdown we are seeing investment and job gains in our state - gains larger than this time last year even. Secondly, we must treat each other with respect, listen and find ways to work together to solve our problems. We must reject division and seek solutions.

6. Please give a 100 word summary on your background

I am a fifth generation Gwinnett county resident. I was born and grew up in Lawrenceville and currently reside there with my wife of 18 years, Amanda, and my two teenage children. I own a local insurance agency in Lawrenceville, and serve on various boards. I enjoy the very occasional round of golf, traveling, cooking with my wife and watching my children play soccer, perform and swim