

2020 GwinnettForum candidate questionnaire

NAME: Elizabeth Melton
PARTY: Libertarian
SEEKING: Public Service Commission, District 1

1. Why are you seeking your office?

There needs to be more diversity of voices within our government institutions and among those voices the Libertarian Party needs representation. For years the approach to government has been a combination of central planning and control and it is an approach that has failed miserably. Resolution to many of the current problems that face our citizenry may be found by allowing market forces and personal freedom and responsibility to flourish. I want to be a representative of this approach.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

If elected, I would strive to be a better advocate for the ratepayer. Allowing utility giants to continue to hold the ratepayer responsible for their capital investments, poor decisions, environmental irresponsibility, and inefficient business practices is unacceptable. Government-sanctioned monopolies are not the best choice but since that is what we have, corporations should no longer be allowed to run roughshod over the consumer.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

My campaign has intentionally been a true, grass-roots model. I have run an efficient campaign on very little money while assuming direct responsibility for all aspects.

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

The monopoly approach to providing utility services is not the most effective solution. I would like to be a voice for exploring some of the free market alternatives that are being embraced with great success in other states. Although as Public Service Commissioner this would not be within the realm of my direct control, I would be in a good position to promote individual choices for the citizens of Georgia. This would provide a push for clean and renewable energy as well, as those who wish to support these efforts could choose to patronize services that use these practices.

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

Eliminating red tape and bureaucracy that hinders business ownership would allow unemployed people to seek self-employment as an alternative. Adopting measures that avoid government policy that has favored big business, such as Congressman Thomas Massie's PRIME Act, would

make great strides toward helping the average citizen deal with economic challenges brought about by the restrictions.

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

I was born and raised in Columbus and after brief adventures in other places returned to Georgia to live. I received a degree in History from Columbus State University, taught high school for a few years, and worked in the corporate world as a technical writer. I now work as a free-lance writer and part-time farmer. I have always been an eager student of philosophy, in general, and libertarian philosophy, in particular. I am the chair of the Libertarian Party of the Chattahoochee Valley, and have served on the state executive board and various committees.