

NAME: Nakita Hemingway
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Agricultural Commissioner

1. Why are you seeking your office?

I am running because there was no one to fight for me when the county commissioner for my district attempted to regulate me out of the use of my farmland. In learning how to fight for myself as an urban farmer, I have learned how to fight for others too. We, the people of Georgia, need better leadership. We need leaders who are principled, passionate about serving in an unbiased way to ensure that our government is just and operates efficiently for everyone. This is what I intend to do.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I want to build a better future for all of Georgia by helping our Ag industry operate efficiently and by addressing issues around food security, animal welfare, supporting our farmers, protecting our farm workers, climate change and cultivating the next generation of farmers.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I am the most qualified candidate on this ballot because I am an experienced farmer with a record of supporting and building successful businesses across multiple industries and I have a passion for serving people. I come from a family of farmers and we LOVE agriculture. And I hope that you will fall in love with agriculture too. If I am elected to serve as Georgia's next commissioner of Agriculture, I will be the first African-American woman elected to this position in our nation's history.

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

I am deeply concerned about food insecurity and childhood hunger. Our already strained food system is becoming more at risk each day. Rising food costs, supply chain shortages, developing wildfires in the west and Russia's invasion into Ukraine is very concerning to me. But I believe the best way to protect ourselves is by sourcing more locally. Supporting and promoting locally grown agriculture is good for our farmers, the environment, our families and the environment too.

5. What are your ideas on curbing all the many area-wide shooting?

There is not much the commissioner of Agriculture can do about the shooting outbreaks, but did you know that soil is scientifically proven to be a natural antidepressant!?! Being outdoors and spending time in nature can play a vital role in maintaining good mental health. And happy people don't go on shooting sprees.

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

My ancestors and grandparents were rice farmers off the coast of the Savannah River. My husband Jonathan is a former Gwinnett educator and a 5th generation corn farmer. I attended Georgia State University where I majored in Real Estate and I have a degree in Finance from AIU. Aside from farming, I maintain a small real estate practice. Jonathan and I grow cut-flowers on our farm in Gwinnett, We have 4 children and a recently-deceased cat named "Christina" who we miss dearly.