

NAME: Derrick Jackson
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Lieutenant Governor

1. Why are you seeking your office?

Georgia needs experienced leadership that puts the priorities of everyday Georgians first. I am a 22-year Navy veteran, where I learned first to follow, and then to lead; a former corporate executive who focused on the needs of working-class employees while achieving important corporate goals and gaining valuable insight into who really powers state economies; and a three term State Representative, always fighting for the voiceless while developing the relationships and experience necessary to help the next Governor implement legislative priorities. I am running to help build a better Georgia.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

There is much to do, but I hope to make Georgia the number 1 state for quality of life for its citizens. My top three priorities:

Affordable/Accessible Healthcare – We must take advantage of federal dollars already available to us for Medicaid expansion, and ensure the availability of quality healthcare statewide.

Quality of Life/Affordable Housing – In pursuing the Number 1 ranking for business, we left everyday Georgians behind. A living wage and decent place to live must be accessible to all working families.

Public Education – Great schools are the foundation of our prosperity. Our children deserve better.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I am a servant leader with experience, compassion, and capability for the role of Lt. Governor. The LG's critical responsibilities do not allow for on-the-job legislative training. Every LG in Georgia's history has been a legislator first, and for good reason. I have consensus building skills that will enable reaching across the aisle to help us coalesce around meeting the needs of our constituents. I can relate to everyday Georgians as a husband, a father, a grandfather, an educator, a business owner, and a veteran. No other candidate offers that breadth of experience.

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

Schools must equip children with the skills and the knowledge they need to navigate a high-tech, digital future. Every student in Georgia – urban, suburban, and rural – should have access to the technology they need. We must work to deliver academic equity through the provision of

broadband access and computers to all students in need. My school improvement approach is simple – ensure that the curriculum is world class; fund schools at the level they need to provide holistic support for all students; and get state government out of the way. I trust Georgia’s educators to do what is best.

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

Crime is a broad-based problem that varies widely across Georgia. No one approach can curb shootings, or any other crime category statewide, as the needs and cultural dynamics of each community are unique. We must work to build trust of police departments again, so that all citizens view the police as community peace officers and not the enemy. The solution to crime is not only policing but eradicating the root of most crime ... poverty and hopelessness. Improving the quality of life for all Georgians will have a profound impact on crime.

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

I am a retired Navy officer after 22 years of service. I enlisted at 18, grew into adulthood, learned a great deal, and was promoted to an officer, retiring with the rank of Lt. Commander. I am a husband and father of 7 - 5 in college and 2 in high school - and have spent three terms in the House, fighting for working families and advocating for improvements that will help all Georgians thrive, not just the privileged few. I am passionate about pursuing economic equity and fair opportunities for success for every citizen of our state.