

**NAME: John Eaves**  
**PARTY: Democratic**  
**SEEKING: Secretary of State**

**1. Why are you seeking your office?**

I am running for Secretary of State because we need a strong, experienced leader to protect the vote of Georgians. If elected, I will fight to expand access to the ballot box, particularly for underserved communities, and protect people of color and young people from being purged from voter rolls. I will also stimulate the economy by awarding state contracts to minority, women, and veteran owned businesses. If elected, I will be the first Black Secretary of State elected in the South.

**2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?**

**I am a proven job creator with a record of supporting minority and women-owned businesses.** As Fulton County Chairman, I oversaw economic growth and job creation, and I helped bring businesses like UPS and Tyler Perry's studio to Fulton. I also shepherded the public-private partnership to restore Grady Memorial Hospital.

**Georgia has 1.1 million small businesses; yet, there is a 20% failure rate during the first year of small business ownership.** If elected, I will stimulate the economy by supporting minority and women-owned businesses to grow and strengthen their ability to procure contract opportunities with state and local government.

**3. What distinguishes your candidacy?**

I am the only candidate with a proven record of successfully making voting more accessible and increasing voter participation. As Fulton County Chairman, I made voting accessible by creating Soul to the Polls, expanding early voting, and increasing the number of precincts. If elected, I will advocate for increasing the number of polling places, particularly in underserved communities, protect people of color and young people from being purged from the voter rolls, and fight to expand access to the ballot box by promoting early voting and absentee voting.

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

During my campaign, I have traveled extensively and spoken with many residents in such cities as Augusta, Griffin, Lincolnton, and Woodbine, and I have heard their challenges with voting in local elections. Many Georgians believe that voter suppression is real and needs to stop.

**As the chief election officer, I will increase the number of polling places, particularly in underserved communities.** I will protect people of color and young people from being

purged from the voter rolls and create an alert system that actively informs people if they have been removed from the voter rolls.

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

I vehemently oppose the recent “Unlicensed gun law” passed in the 2022 Georgia State Legislature and signed by the Governor. This is a bad idea that can possibly lead to more gun violence in our state. The International Association of Police Chiefs oppose this law as well.

I believe gun violence can be reduced through a multi-faceted approach. Evidence based strategies that curb gun violence include better mental health screening in schools and public health clinics; anger management and conflict management training for teens; more funding for after school programs, summer camps, and Police Athletic Leagues (PAL); and more funding (100)

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

I am a native of Jacksonville, Florida, but I have lived in Georgia for 37 years. I am an Instructor at Spelman College and small businessowner. I am the former Regional Manager of the Peace Corps for the Southeast, and I am the former Chairman of Fulton County. I have degrees from Morehouse College (BA), Yale University (MA), and the University of South Carolina (PhD). I am a two-time Fulbright Award recipient, who has traveled to 52 countries. I live in Atlanta and have two children, who attend Duke University and North Carolina A&T University.