

NAME: JT Wu
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: House District 97

1. Why are you seeking your office?

I grew up in Gwinnett as the son of immigrant parents who sacrificed daily in the hopes of a brighter future. Thanks to them, I went from kindergarten at GCPS to graduating on scholarship from Princeton, and dedicating my career to enhancing healthcare and education. But today, that same Dream is slipping out of reach for Georgia families. I believe we all still want the same things: good education for our kids, affordable healthcare, and living wages. I'm running to bring experience and innovation to the State House, making the promise of the American Dream a reality for every Georgian.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I care deeply about fighting for common-sense solutions, based on shared values of Opportunity, Community, and Progress. Particularly, given the need to focus on common ground under the Gold Dome, I'm prioritizing strengthening early educational opportunities, expanding quality healthcare, and addressing our community's economic needs in an equitable way that invests in workers, in living wages, and in creating an economy that truly works for all of us, while promoting forward-thinking industries and innovation.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I have a proven track record of already delivering results for our District and giving back to the community that made me who I am today. I founded a nationally-recognized early childhood literacy nonprofit called Preface here in Gwinnett, serve on the Library Board where I helped open new branches in Duluth and Norcross, successfully fought for a \$15 minimum wage for Library staff, and worked across Georgia to expand healthcare access. I'll bring enthusiasm and experience for positive change to the legislature, so we can enhance education, expand Medicaid, fight for good wages, and defend the right to vote.

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

Educational opportunity is at the heart of the American Dream - yet over half of our kids won't read proficiently by the 3rd grade, in large part because our public schools have been chronically underfunded for 17 out of the last 20 years. Finding common ground with teachers, students, and parents to enhance early literacy supports and ensure effective educational investments will be a day-one priority of mine under the Gold Dome. Building on my record of proven results, I'll spearhead targeted multilingual teacher support programs that enhance reading comprehension, rewarding effective innovation in the classroom with state-level support.

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

The recent rise in gun violence in metro Atlanta is a trend that can only be combated by reintroducing responsible and common-sense public safety solutions into our state conversations. As legislators and as citizens, we should be encouraging enhanced safety discussions and trainings for gun owners while discouraging the proliferation of high-capacity magazines in civilian settings. I believe we can defend our families' safety and their constitutional rights at the same time, instead of only pursuing broad-stroke policies that continue to allow individuals to wield deadly weapons without a permit and without proper training.

6. Please give a 100 word summary on your background

As a Georgia-grown first-generation American, my life story is a testament to the promise of our community. Thanks to educational foundations built in Gwinnett, I got my start in public service working with the State Department. I founded the Preface Project, an award-winning national nonprofit teaching kids of all backgrounds to read, and I serve on the boards of our Public Library, the Hudgens Art Museum, and the Special Needs School of Gwinnett. I've also held executive roles in the financial and healthcare industries, partnering with doctors to expand treatment for patients suffering from chronic pain or substance use disorders.

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