

NAME: Gloria Butler
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Senate, District 55

1. Why are you seeking the office?

As the Senate Democratic Minority Leader over the last two years and as the Democratic Caucus Chair the previous two years in the Georgia Senate, and years before, I have been constantly fighting for better health care, stronger schools, and more economic opportunity for families of the 55th district and of this state. I would like to continue to work to protect the right of citizens to vote without unnecessary challenges to the ballot box. Everyone's vote is sacred, and access to the polls is essential to the health of our democracy.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I will continue to work towards one of my main priorities, to fully expand Medicaid. The Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated and revealed that all Georgians need health care. This state could provide to more than 500,000 Georgians who still don't have health insurance. Every year we fail to expand Medicaid, it cost our state lives, livelihoods, and millions of federal dollars that taxpayers have already paid in taxes. Expansion would help our rural hospitals by keeping them open and serving patients. Expansion also creates jobs and boost the local economy by hiring and retaining health care workers.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I have a proven record and I am undeniably loyal to the citizens of the 55th Senate district. The people can always depend on me to make the right choices for them. I am committed and devoted to solving the real problems Georgians face in their daily lives. I am focused on policies that move Georgia forward so our people can thrive. I am willing to put forth workable, ready-to-go ideas that will help more Georgians to get health insurance, good paying jobs, and help students get their student loans paid off.

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

It's past time to reward our hard-working state employees, but we need to invest in our entire workforce. This is a perfect time to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. We've spent the past two years calling people essential workers and then are surprised that they want to be paid a living wage for that essential work. Raising the minimum wage now would be fair because it would apply to all employers and would allow people to survive off working one job. I will introduce legislation to increase the minimum wage.

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

Crime is not something that has one input and one output. It goes with other factors: poverty, lack of opportunity and hope, income inequality, and gun proliferation. When these go up, crime goes up too.

We can make sure that domestic abusers can't access guns. Risk of homicide increases when a violent intimate partner has access to a firearm, and of course we must give the right kind of support to our law enforcement through training and enough resources to do the job they have been trained to do.

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

Born and raised in Daytona Beach, Florida. Moved to Georgia in September, 1977. I am the proud mother of two daughters, two grand children, and six great grand children, sister that resides in Florida. Attended college at Florida A&M University, Bethune Cookman College and Perimeter College. I am a member of Berean Christian Church in Stone Mountain.

Elected to the Georgia State Senate in 1998, served my first term in 1999-2000. Upon entry I was elected in a leadership position as Deputy Whip in the Democratic Caucus. Leadership position have been, Chair of Fundraising, Caucus Chairwoman, currently Minority Leader.