

NAME: Sheikh Rahman
PARTY: Democrat
SEEKING: Senate District 5

1. Why are you seeking your office?

I'm blessed and honored to represent the most diverse State Senate district in Georgia and would love to continue to represent the good people of my district.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I want to continue to fight the good fight as a legislator for the well-being of the average citizens of the state of Georgia. I will continue fighting for Medicaid expansion, increasing access to the ballot box, increasing public transportation access, and ensuring immigrant rights.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

In 2018, I became the first Asian American and the first Muslim legislator elected to the Georgia State Senate. Since being elected, I have helped my constituents with many different issues such as unemployment benefits, rental assistance, and healthcare coverage under the American Rescue Plan. Even though it is difficult as the minority party to pass meaningful legislation, I was still able to co-sponsor more than a dozen bills that have been signed into law by the Governor that have helped not only Gwinnett, but also the whole state of Georgia.

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

Kids spend 90% of their time indoors and screen time has gone up for most kids during COVID-19. I was appointed by the Lieutenant Governor as the Chairman of the Outdoor Learning Study Committee, which led to the co-sponsorship of SB 603, establishing a pilot program for outdoor learning spaces. Outdoor learning improves educational outcomes by improving children's academic performance, focus, behavior, and love of learning. I also co-sponsored SB 619, establishing the Office of the Outdoors within the Governor's office in Georgia. By enhancing citizen's awareness and connection to the outdoors, we can encourage environmental stewardship.

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

We need law enforcement, community leaders, and citizens to work together so that they better understand and trust each other. One of the outreach programs in Gwinnett that I'm proud of is the Citizens Police Academy. I want more leaders and citizens to participate in such programs, so they can see and understand how the department and officers enforce local and state laws. Furthermore, HB 1013, the Mental Health Parity Act, passed

this session and covers increased access to mental health resources. Increasing access and funding to mental health resources will also help curb violence and shootings in our community.

6. Please give a 100 word summary on your background

I'm hoping to serve my third term as your Georgia State Senator. I'm blessed to serve the most diverse State Senate district in Georgia. I have been a Georgia resident for almost 40 years. I'm an immigrant from Bangladesh and have a wife and two kids. I'm a proud Georgia Bulldog who studied Economics and Global Studies at UGA.