

**NAME: Sally Harrell**  
**PARTY: Democratic**  
**SEEKING: Ga. Senate, District 40**

**Why are you seeking your office?**

More than ever, people are realizing that who they elect to office, at all levels of government, can have major impacts on their personal lives. I have always believed that good government can help individuals, families and communities meet their highest potential. All our citizens deserve affordable healthcare; quality public education; transportation options; clean air and water, and safe neighborhoods. I have enjoyed listening to the people of Senate District 40, shaping an agenda that works to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods and throughout Georgia.

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

2023 will be an important year for the Georgia General Assembly. We will need to watch the economy closely and respond accordingly, so that families are able to thrive. We need to make sure both the Department of Education and the Department of Public Health have adequate resources to deal with learning loss, mental health issues, and virus monitoring. My office will also prioritize rebuilding the service infrastructure for families living with disabilities in addition to continuing to ensure that public college and technical schools are affordable and accessible.

**What distinguishes your candidacy?**

We are living during a time when leadership matters on a very personal level. I bring several years of experience to policy making at Georgia's Gold Dome, having served three terms in the Georgia House (1999 - 2005) and two terms in the Georgia Senate (2018 - 2022). During these times, I have served under both a Democratic majority and a Republican majority. Working in these diverse political settings requires flexibility and adaptability, and a vision that focuses on the people, rather than hard-line political party ideologies.

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

Georgia currently has 7000 families on a waiting list for disabilities support services. These services are not optional -- they are mandated by the courts, but Georgia has not met the need for two decades. Sadly, the pandemic has caused many small businesses who provide these services to either downsize or close completely. This causes a second waiting list. Many parents of adult disabled children are growing older and more frail themselves. I am currently chairing a Senate Study Committee that will make recommendations on how Georgia should address these issues.

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

Firearms are dangerous weapons that are designed to kill. I believe anyone carrying such a weapon should be required to complete safety training and show competency.

**Give a 100 word summary on your background**

Indiana born and Georgia educated, I completed a Bachelor of Social Work at GSU and a Master of Social Work at the UGA. I have worked as a non-profit executive, specializing in child health. During my six years in the Georgia House and four years in the Georgia Senate, I have fought for quality public schools, affordable college, and quality care for our seniors and the disabled. My husband, Jay, and I have raised two children who are now attending universities. In my spare time, I climb 60-foot walls at our local rock climbing gym.