NAME: Ryan Graham

**PARTY:** Libertarian

**SEEKING: Lieutenant Governor** 

# 1. Why are you seeking your office?

So many are unhappy with the direction of the country and find themselves choosing the "lesser of two evils" in each election. I am running for Lt. Governor to give voters another choice on their ballots. I am the only candidate on the ballot that believes in empowering people to make decisions for their own lives and trust those same people to do a much better job than politicians in solving the issues of the day and I believe there is an unheard voting bloc who agree with me.

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

If I'm elected, my goal is to stop the government from meddling with the people. Mandatory and banned curricula, mandatory standardized testing, and the elimination of as many victimless crimes from the books as possible. If there has been no force or fraud committed against another individual, there should be no crime, and there definitely should be no jail time. I also want to work on reforming our election system so it's more secure and transparent as well as accessible to voters and any candidate they'd like to vote for.

## 3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I will be alone in the Georgia Senate when I win my race for Lt. Governor. There are currently no Libertarian candidates running for Georgia Senate because of our terrible ballot access laws that keep third-party and independent candidates off the ballot. Because of that, I'll be forced to work together with partisans from both old parties to accomplish goals. My being elected will force a bridge between a divide that has been growing fast for the past few years. We will all need to work together.

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

My priority is to create more educational freedom in Georgia. What does that mean? Right now, politicians from the two old parties continue attempts to ban and mandate certain curricula. I want to get politicians out of the classroom and empower students, teachers, and parents to find a path to accomplish their educational goals. Teachers should be allowed to innovate. Students and parents should be empowered to choose what education option is best for them.

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

With the rise in violent crime, I think a serious reprioritization of our policing needs to happen. Republicans will "back the blue" and call for more resources to be sent to "law enforcement". Democrats will call for defunding the police. I am calling for an end of "law enforcement" and

entry into an era of "protect and serve." That means we stop locking folks up for victimless crimes and start using our scarce resources to pursue violent criminals. Instead of Operation Southern Slow Down, we should be processing rape kits.

## 6. Give a 100 word summary on your background

My name is Ryan Graham. I was born and raised here in Georgia, in Athens and Metro Atlanta. I received my bachelor's in Computer Science from Georgia State University(Go Panthers!). Currently, I live in Summerhill with my wife and 6-year-old and work as an IT Project Manager. I became active in the Libertarian Party of Georgia in 2016. I ran for Public Service Commissioner in 2018 and served as Chair of the state party from 2019 until 2022.