

NAME: Bee Nguyen
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Secretary of State

1. Why are you seeking your office?

I am running for Secretary of State because I believe our right to vote is the fundamental right upon which all of our other civil rights are rooted, and I believe every eligible Georgian should be able to efficiently and securely cast their vote.

As Secretary of State, I will protect our right to vote and our democracy by overseeing all election activity, increasing funding and training for local election boards, and certifying the winner of each election as required by law.

This is more important now than at any other time in recent history.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I will ensure that Georgia's elections are accurate and secure, and ensure that every eligible Georgian has the opportunity to vote, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, physical disabilities, sexual orientation, or language spoken. Just as importantly, I will make sure that the winner of every election is certified.

I will also support all 159 counties in administering their elections. I will remove barriers for small business owners and practitioners who obtain their licenses from the Secretary of State's office and will strengthen consumer protections by creating a public registry for fraudulent non-profits and securities.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

Unlike my opponent, a leading supporter of Senate Bill 202, I have been one of the leaders on voting rights, repealing the discriminatory exact-match voter registration law and restoring the right to vote to 50,000 Georgians, the majority of whom were Black.

I have also been an ardent supporter of reproductive freedom, voting against the six-week abortion ban. My record stands in stark contrast to that of my opponent, who supports a total ban on abortion, even in cases of rape and incest and to prevent the death of the mother.

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

When Georgia adopted the touch-screen voting machines in 2019 with the passage of HB 316, I spoke against the bill and in favor of hand-marked paper ballots, and I've continued to advocate for hand-marked paper ballots.

Now, even the bill's sponsors won't defend their decision to eschew hand-marked paper ballots. And with the Coffee County incident, the issue of election security has taken on new urgency.

I will lead an effort for a new bill to adopt hand-marked paper ballots, which should pass because of the widespread support on both sides of the aisle, in and outside the Capitol.

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

Unlike my opponent, who has received an A rating from the NRA and voted for campus carry, I support common-sense gun safety policies. The majority of Georgians are in favor of common-sense gun reform, including expanded background checks and red-flag laws, which will limit access to guns for people who show signs of being a threat to themselves or others.

We also have to increase access to mental health services and make sure that every person has a real opportunity to succeed, including through a quality public education, wrap-around services, and social-emotional learning.

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

I grew up in Augusta, graduated from a Georgia public high school, and received my Master of Public Administration from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. I started a nonprofit to educate and empower young women in under-resourced communities in Georgia public schools, and I served as its Executive Director for 10 years.

I was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 2017, succeeding Leader Stacey Abrams, serving on the Government Affairs, Education, Human Relations and Aging, and Budget and Fiscal Oversight Committees. In 2022, I received the Georgia Association of Educators Legislator of the Year award.