

**NAME:** Patsy Austin-Gatson  
**PARTY:** Democratic  
**SEEKING:** Gwinnett District Attorney

**1. Why are you seeking your office?**

After deep prayer, and conversation with my family, I made the decision to run for this office. I believe that my background and experience will be an asset and I am the best qualified candidate for the position. Presently, I work with the Gwinnett County Solicitor's Office as a Supervising Attorney. Previously, I have worked with the Attorney's General's Office of the State of Georgia and I am a graduate of Emory University School of Law. I have been a resident of Gwinnett County for twenty-two years and I am committed to this County.

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

Once I am elected, I plan to be extremely active in our Community. I will find proactive and creative ways to keep our children out of the criminal justice system and work with other stake holders in the community. I will establish a Conviction Integrity Unit to examine whether there are wrongful convictions which must be corrected. I will assure that the accountability courts are used on a consistent basis so that people who have made mistakes can be productive members of our community. I will also assure that victim's rights are protected, and recidivism is decreased.

**3. What distinguishes your candidacy?**

I believe that my candidacy is distinguished from my opponents because I bring a new and fresh perspective to issues that concern our community. The County is more diverse and needs a responsive candidate for this reality. I am tuned into the community and I have a heart for our community. I have raised a family here and know the issues first-hand that impact us. I will work diligently for the people of our County so that we will have a safe and superior quality of life.

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

The one issue I identify is youth crime and gangs. We have to be proactive in how we address this issue. Our children need to know they have a hope and a future for a good life. Many children today do not believe that they will reach the age of twenty-five. As a community, we are failing. I would assure that this belief is tackled by going into the schools, juvenile court and anywhere else, to speak with youth and make sure they have services that will redirect them. I will form a community task force to combat the growth (100)...

**5. Suggest ways to jump-start the economy after COVID-19.**

One way to look at jump starting the economy after COVID-19 would be to inform the community of where needed resources are available. Yesterday, I was involved with a group who were handing out dinners to families. It is important that people know where to go to get relief on utility bills and to know how to speed up stimulus money. It is also important that people realize that even though they may have lost a job, that there are many jobs looking to hire people. This is important so that no one feels they need to turn to crime.

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

I am the first college graduate in my family. I attended Syracuse University and obtained my Bachelor of Science in Human Development. I worked for six years after college in New York City at People Magazine as an advertising clerk and then at Shearson Lehman as a paralegal. I attended Emory University School of Law. My first position after Law School was with the Attorney General's Office of Georgia. I argued a case there before the Supreme Court of Georgia and moved on to law firm practice. Presently, I work with the Gwinnett County Solicitor's Office as a Supervising Attorney.