

NAME: Wes Person
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Gwinnett District Attorney

1. Why are you seeking your office?

I am running to enact real criminal justice reform in Gwinnett County. I believe that too often, our system has focused more on punishment rather than justice.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

To run an innovative, fair, and transparent office. I want to have an office that looks at new ways to hold people accountable for their actions while not growing our incarceration rates. I intend to look for the best practices across the nation and bring them back to Gwinnett Country to help us create a just and fair system.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I am the only candidate in this primary that has experience as both a felony criminal prosecutor and defense attorney. Since my admission to the bar, I have been involved in felony criminal cases. Because of this experience, I understand what needs to be done to reform the system. I also have the knowledge and expertise to manage this office. The power of this office requires a person who understands the limits of that power and will seek to use it in a matter that reflects our tradition of limited government.

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

Cash Bail- I want to reform the cash bail system. Too often, we punish people because they cannot afford the cash bond. I want to work with the superior court judges to create a system that looks at whether the person is a public safety risk. When determined that a person does not pose a threat to the community, then they would be eligible for release on their recognizance. There is no reason to hold someone based on economics but public safety. The current system holds people based on their ability to pay.

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

I would listen to the medical experts on what steps to take to reopen the economy. I would look at countries like New Zealand and how they are opening their economy. I would expand testing and surveillance to ensure that there are no hotspots that could ignite a second wave. We can only reopen the economy when it is safe, and we don't put lives at risk because if people don't feel safe, they will be unwilling to enter the market place. The first duty of the government is to ensure the safety of its citizens

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

I was raised by my father, a man with limited opportunity but unlimited hope. I can tell you about my education and achievements, but I want you to know that my background was shaped by this man that was never bitter, but he always encouraged me to do the best that I could. I learned that this country is about always changing, always seeking to improve; It's vices, to make tomorrow better than yesterday. That is my background, hope, and faith that we will continue to strive for better. I am an optimist; that is my background and future.