

NAME: Laurie McClain
PARTY: Republican
SEEKING: Commission, District One

1. Why are you seeking your office?

I have lived in Gwinnett since 1976. I have watched this county transform from a mostly rural, bedroom community to a thriving, economic powerhouse of the region. As a result of the explosive growth, we are at a crossroads in this community. We must continue to grow Gwinnett in a common sense, balanced way. I believe that will take leadership that can focus on core, critical issues while balancing the needs of residents with fiscally conservative values. With my education, my history and my experience, I believe I am that leader.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I will break the stalemate that has overtaken Gwinnett Place Mall.
I will encourage intelligent growth as it relates to zoning issues.
I will implement a realistic and adaptable plan for congestion relief.
I will strengthen and empower non - profits to deliver social services.
I will support public safety officials to reduce crime in our community.
I will implement a rolling, zero based budget to reduce waste.
I will audit the efficacy of the county wide sanitation plan.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I am the only candidate for this office that has worked with county government, in numerous capacities for over 10 years. I have served in a volunteer role for various county committees and as a board member for numerous non-profits. I have been through Leadership Gwinnett (Class of 2008) and Senior Leadership (Class of 2018). I've been active in the Chamber of Commerce, the Duluth Fall Festival and Gwinnett Medical Center Foundation. I am not looking for a career in politics – I just want my county to continue to be a desirable place to live.

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

While I am blessed that I have never faced homelessness myself, I have seen the effects of it and the woefully inadequate resources that we have to combat it here in Gwinnett. This is a malady that cannot be ignored. I will begin by pulling our social service organizations together to define and create strategies to combat the issue. I will push for additional funding as required and I will empower county resources to assist.

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

On a county level, we are limited on the strategies we can employ to kick the economy back into gear. I would recommend that building permits and inspections be fast tracked and any contracts for government services that have been held, be let immediately to get infrastructure projects working again. I would work with the Gwinnett Development Authority, in conjunction with the municipal development authorities to develop programs to assist Gwinnett's small businesses in ramping up their businesses quickly through loans and/or grants. Lastly, I would identify and apply for any federal or state grants that might be helpful.

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

I am a CPA with a Masters in Taxation, and a small business owner. As a public accountant, I work with many other small business owners, mostly based in Gwinnett. I understand their relationship with residents and with the county. I also managed many HOAs in Gwinnett, so I have a unique understanding of the challenges that homeowners face. I have served this county in numerous capacities over the last 15 years. I have the time, the energy and the passion to devote to the hard work necessary to find innovative solutions and commonsense answers to Gwinnett's challenges.