

NAME: **Andy Morgan**
PARTY: **Democratc**
SEEKING: **Gwinnett Commission Chair**

1. Why are you seeking your office?

I have never run for public office before. However, I have a desire to serve my community and a strong belief in the importance of active civic engagement. I have always found ways to contribute to my community in my spare time, whether serving as a recreation youth sports coach or volunteering on boards, such as Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce or Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity. I am now ready to invest fully to the commitment of making a positive difference in my community and believe that the best way for me to do that is by serving as County Chairman.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I intend to accomplish the following: (i) ensuring our fiscal stability and the effective and efficient use of resources; (ii) ensuring that services are delivered to our residents in a professional, efficient and cost effective way; (iii) ensuring that our quality of life is sustained and improved upon; and (iv) ensuring that we foster a vibrant economic environment that is conducive to economic development and encourages entrepreneurship, small business investment and quality job growth. These are the core objectives that will be front of mind in my administration and will be used to evaluate and prioritize countywide aspirational goals.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

Gwinnett is expected to grow significantly over the coming years, becoming the most populous county in Georgia. Our elected officials will need to work together to implement forward looking strategies that will enable sustainable growth while also leveraging the opportunities that will come as a result of that growth. My problem solving engineering background, commitment to supporting non-profit organizations and experience as an attorney who has negotiated and worked on complex financial transactions distinguishes me as a candidate who is up to the task of working creatively and collaboratively with all constituents toward an even brighter future for our county.

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

Recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting shutdown of our economy and general way of life is the biggest issue presently facing our county. In all likelihood, the economic effect of the COVID 19 shutdown on the county budget will be reduced collections. I would require an immediate audit of the county budget and require

department heads identify spending that is either discretionary or can be delayed to a subsequent fiscal year without substantially impacting operations or service delivery. Funds identified by this process will be sequestered and kept in reserve (i) to address any budget shortfalls that result (100)...

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

- a. Explore leveraging our credit rating to borrow money now at favorable rates to invest in capital projects that are pending or proposed, if the investment would have the effect of creating local jobs and stimulating our local economy.
- b. Fund a countywide “buy local” media campaign that will encourage local business owners and residents to hire local and purchase goods and services locally.
- c. Give priority (or added consideration) in county requisitions and bid opportunities to business that hire locally to the extent legally permissible, and encourage local municipalities and CID’s to do the same.

6. Please give a 100 word summary on your background

I am a US Citizen who was born in Jamaica. I came to the US at the age of 4 and was raised in NY City. I am a veteran who served as a member of the US Army Reserve, a proud father of a Gwinnett county public school student, an attorney who has practiced law for 25 years, a small business owner with a law practice in Lawrenceville since 2008, a Gwinnett County homeowner and a resident of Gwinnett County since 2007. I have professional degrees in Electrical Engineering and Law and am a 2015 graduate of Leadership Gwinnett.