

NAME: Marcia Neaton
PARTY: Republican
SEEKING: County Commission Chairman

1. Why are you seeking your office?

As a former Commissioner, I've flown in formation with the Chairman. That experience and others readies me to take the lead now. I see solutions not problems and answers not questions. I'm ready.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I expect the next Chairman of Gwinnett County will have to deal more with a county that is maturing. This means revising planning department building codes to allow more flexibility to revitalize versus new building. I expect to have a workable, utilized transportation system developed and begun. I will have zero based budgeting established and operating. But above all I will ensure Gwinnett retain its' Triple A bond rating.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I believe my experience, far and away, separates me from all other candidates. This is not the position to spend any time training for, rather, it requires the candidate to hit the ground running. I will do this. I was also in office on 9-11. There is no training for this type of tragedy somewhat like COVID 19 we are facing now.

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

It is difficult to pick one issue but I would have to chose our Triple A bond rating. Currently, Gwinnett County borrows at a sub-prime rate. Not only does this save the county millions of dollars but also the Gwinnett County Schools, who enjoy borrowing at this same rate. My previous experience as a Commissioner coupled with my degree and experience in accounting, will allow me to communicate clearly with the bond raters to ensure Gwinnett County maintains this highest rating.

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

Our economy after COVID 19 will take work, unquestionably. I believe Chairman Nash is already working on our recovery and I would anticipate continuing what she is planning. Additional ideas I'd like to see started is more small business incubators. But above all, I would like to celebrate Gwinnett. Celebrate our award winning park system, library system and our unique cities. We have serious talent in our county and I'd like to showcase that as part of our recovery.

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

I grew up in upstate New York, however, when work opportunities presented themselves, I moved to Duluth, GA. I was a Duluth planning commissioner then Gwinnett County D1 Commissioner. In addition, I am a certified County Commissioner and a graduate of Leadership Gwinnett, class of 2004. The skills I've learned in business and my community involvement, make me uniquely qualified. I'm ready to take a maturing Gwinnett County with all of its' challenges and keep it the great place we all love.