

NAME: Carolyn Bourdeaux
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Congress, 7th District

1. Why are you seeking your office?

I decided to run for office because everyone in the 7th district deserves quality, affordable health care. Over 100,000 residents do not have health insurance and many others pay very high prices for health insurance and prescription medications. I also decided to run because of the toxic agenda and dangerous incompetence of President Trump and his allies. This current crisis is laying bare the need for people to run for office who know something about public policy and how our governing institutions work.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I will advocate for quality, affordable health care by strengthening the Affordable Care Act (ACA), protecting people with pre-existing conditions, creating a robust affordable public option health insurance plan for individuals and small businesses, allowing the federal government to negotiate prescription drug prices, and ending surprise billing. I will also prioritize the restoration of our democracy; make long-overdue investments to expand transit in the 7th district and modernize our infrastructure; and invest in policies to ensure a world-class education for all our children.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

At Georgia State, I teach public policy and have served in a number of public service roles. As staff in the US Senate, I worked to expand access to public health centers and low income food programs, and increase funding for transit. My experience in helping guide Georgia through the 2007 recession gives me significant insight into the crisis the state and our country will face as we grapple with the health and economic consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak.

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

Health care is personal to me. For ten years, my father suffered from a debilitating illness. Now every day, I hear from Georgia families struggling with the rising costs of medical care. This country must do more to protect the health of its citizens. I will prioritize legislation that allows the federal government to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs. I will fight to increase access and affordability of health insurance through strengthening the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and creating a public option plan for individuals and small businesses; protect people with preexisting conditions; and end surprise billing.

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

The economic collapse due the coronavirus pandemic has so far resulted in over a million Georgians out of work and thousands of small businesses shuttered. In Congress, I will support a fair and broad based families-first economic recovery by fighting for legislation that supports the recovery of Georgia's small businesses; raises the federal minimum wage; and uses the crisis as an opportunity to invest in new, good paying jobs that bolster our health care system and make repairs to our crumbling infrastructure.

6. Please give a 100 word summary on your background

I am the daughter of teachers, who instilled in me a deep commitment to public service. My career began as an aide to Senator Ron Wyden where I worked on a range of policy issues from public health to transit. Later, I pursued a PhD in Public Administration with a focus in public finance and came to Georgia in 2003 to teach at Georgia State. For decades, I have worked with Georgia's leaders on many policy issues, but most notably I helped the state navigate through the Great Recession and then founded the Center for State and Local Finance.