NAME: Emily Leslie PARTY: Democratic

**SEEKING:** House District 106

### 1. Why are you seeking your office?

Since I was a child I wanted to help other people. Seeing human suffering was, and still is soul crushing for me. When I began working to promote human rights legislation, I realized I could get results, without politics. For years I watched politicians with no moral compass, no humanity, no decency or care for the vulnerable or working class sit across from me in meetings with the power to do so much good, do nothing. Representation is not supposed to be limited to the wealthy. We need good people with a diverse set of skills and experiences with above average (100)...

# 2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I expect to learn, and bring a long awaited vote for justice and equality back to the House. I know better than to think that you walk in your first term and you immediately carry every bill you've fantasized about. It doesn't happen that way. You build relationships and get assigned to committees and learn the lay of the land, you vote your conscience and do your homework and go to the well to bolster the efforts of your colleagues and pursue the agenda that you campaigned on and uphold the platform. I expect to represent the people and amplify (100)...

## 3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I am running for office because I was asked to, it was my involvement in my community that led me to run for office. True leadership recognizes a need in their community and if they are able and qualified, they address it. When the District needed me, I showed up. When the nominee backed out of this house race at the last minute in 2018, I stepped up. I broke the state record for write-campaigns. When my son's Cub Scout troop needed a den leader I showed up. When the party needed me, I showed up. This isn't about opportunity, (100)...

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

From the beginning of my career in behavioral health and developmental disabilities and human rights, I have seen great tragedy and triumph. Making sure that people living with a disability have the community support they need and that Mental Health is a priority and neighbors can find their way to recovery. That is important to me and the success of our economy and communities and families.

#### 2020 GwinnettForum candidate questionnaire

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

Invest in communities. Education, Healthcare and small business. Remove the barriers that keep Georgia's most successful entrepreneurs from access to capital. From Jim Crow to low wages and inadequate schooling Minorities and immigrants are sidelined when it comes to loans and economic independence. We need to get the working class back to work, with quality healthcare. I don't believe that healthcare should end with your employment, or your spouses. We need a people-first plan that gets working class Georgians help when they need it allows them to contribute to the economy and benefit from their hard work. The working class (100)...

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

I grew up on a farm, my dad was a carpenter with a Degree from IU in political science and my mom was a waitress with a masters degree from Tulane. I relied on medicaid for my healthcare.

My parents met as social workers in south Florida before following my grandparents north. I come from a family of veterans; my older brother is a 3 time veteran. He was also the only active duty soldier to speak openly against the Invasion of Iraq, while he was stationed there. He now works at the Pentagon.

My Paternal uncle and his wife (100)...