

**NAME:** Marvin Lim  
**PARTY:** Democratic  
**SEEKING:** House District 99

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

I want to serve vulnerable populations in Georgia. Like many HD 99ers, I'm an immigrant who had to rely on public assistance, and who was deterred from voting after being wrongfully flagged as a non-citizen voter. Those experiences fueled me to testify in the General Assembly for the first time back in 2009, to graduate from Yale Law, to become an ACLU attorney, and to originate the now-state law permitting domestic violence survivors to terminate their leases (passed even under a conservative majority). In office, I want to be a conduit for the oft-ignored voices of traditionally marginalized Georgians.

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

Certainly I believe I can make progressive laws, as my own experience with the domestic violence law has shown. But it would be a lot easier to pass progressive policies under a different political makeup. We can get there in Georgia – but disillusioned and disenfranchised people aren't going to vote, if elected officials don't show they care. And caring starts with truly listening to folks who already feel ignored, and providing them information that might assist in their daily lives – not merely projecting our vision onto them. So listening and being responsive is what, fundamentally, I expect to accomplish.

**3. What distinguishes your candidacy?**

When I say conduit for oft-ignored voices (and often non-English speaking, like me originally), I mean it: even before COVID-19, I personally canvassed over 3,000 doors, while juggling two legal jobs. Through that, I got to feature the stories of over 100 HD 99ers on social media. And when I say providing information, I've developed 10 resource guides, many of them translated, including most recently a guide to COVID-19 assistance. I've also personally helped HD 99ers with everything from finding short-term disability resources, to interpreting an HOA covenant, to securing an N95 mask for someone whose partner contracted COVID-19.

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

The most frequent issue HD 99ers have voiced is the lack of resources here for proactive, culturally competent law and code enforcement, hindering our response to everything from gangs to garbage. Money is certainly a part of the resource

dearth. But money itself can't address a general detachment from not only government, but even one's own neighbors. That's why I've developed resources like a Community Resources guide, which gives non-emergency numbers for people to do things like report dumping, and "Talking to Our Neighbors," which translates basic neighborly phrases into 7 different languages. That kind of resource dissemination is key.

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

A policy I proposed before seems even more relevant now: Georgia should reform its Jobs Tax Credit, which gives tax credits to businesses that create jobs in high-need areas. HD 99 is designated as one. But these tax credits are available only to certain industries that can "scale up" and excludes small business retail and food service. Why not begin expanding credits to such industries, particularly when owners and staff are actually rooted in the community? And why not implement a state-level "Community Reinvestment Act," which tracks whether both lending (including SBA-backed) and jobs created reflect racial and gender inclusion?

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

Starting as an immigrant who was on public assistance, I graduated from Emory and Yale Law School. I was an attorney with the ACLU, and currently am with the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. In court, I've challenged voter proof of citizenship, electronic voting machines, and discrimination against LGBT and reproductive rights. I originated the lawsuit against campus carry in Georgia. Prior to becoming an attorney, I worked at CARE advocating for climate change mitigation. I created an ESL-job development course for Catholic Charities' refugee clients. And I'm currently a volunteer for the Gwinnett Community Emergency Response Team.