

**NAME:** Kelly Kautz  
**PARTY:** Non-Partisan  
**SEEKING:** Superior Court Judge, Division 3

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

I'm asking for your vote for judge, because I have the knowledge, diversity of experiences, and commitment to our community necessary to serve. I believe that I can make a contribution to positively affect the lives of others. You deserve a judge that you can count on to protect the community while also providing second chances to youthful and non-violent offenders. I don't want to just be tough on crime; I want to be smart on crime which means we must consider the law AND the human being. You can count on me to continue to protect you.

**2. What distinguishes your candidacy?**

My unparalleled experience in courts across Georgia, history of fighting against social injustices, proven record of keeping our children safe, and my reputation as a dedicated public servant make me uniquely qualified to serve as a judge who will be trustworthy, impartial and compassionate. I'm asking the citizens of Gwinnett for the opportunity to bring my passion for the law, my diversity of experience, and my ability to understand our community to work for them as their judge. If you want a judge who's practical, fair and experienced at making tough decisions, then you can Count On Kautz.

**3. What is the proper role of a judge in interpreting the laws and Constitution?**

John Adams is credited for stating that our government is of laws not of men. In a free society such as ours, laws must be fixed and not subject to being changed by a whim or a judge. Judges have the authority through judicial review to interpret the laws and Constitution, but any interpretation especially at the trial court level should be guided by our state's established rules of interpretation and case precedents. It is the responsibility of our legislators to make changes to our laws.

**4. What in your life experience makes you believe that you are or would be a good judge?**

The totality of my experiences has prepared me for this position. My experience as a(n):  
Prosecutor has taught me to be firm;  
Defense and plaintiff attorney has taught me to be impartial;  
Attorney for indigent people has taught me compassion;  
Staff attorney for Superior Court has taught me procedure;  
Wife has taught me compromise;

Mother has taught me patience;  
Adjunct professor has taught me effective communication;  
President of the juvenile and criminal defense bars has taught me leadership;  
Mayor of Snellville has taught me to practice restraint and learn from my mistakes; and  
Guardian ad Litem has taught me confidence.

**5. What do you see as a new challenge for judges in a post-pandemic court system?**

As a Guardian ad Litem my work is essential; I've continued to make court appearances. I've witnessed courts becoming more innovative, accommodating and flexible with the use of technology while maintaining professional standards. Once courts return to full operation, this trend must continue in order to address the high volume of backlogged cases. If elected, then I, as a county employee, would utilize my internal knowledge of the operations of Gwinnett County Courts and its available technology, and I would draw upon my experiences from courtrooms throughout Georgia to implement procedures to improve efficiency and to move Gwinnett courts forward.

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

I have 18 years of courtroom experience in criminal, domestic and real estate matters where I established a record of protecting our community. I've represented thousands of clients on each side of the courtroom as an ADA, an associate Special Assistant Attorney General, a defense attorney, and a Guardian ad Litem. I've prevailed in cases before the Georgia Supreme Court. I've worked as a staff attorney in Superior Court, worked for a large firm, and operated my own practice. I'm an adjunct professor and was the first female Mayor of Snellville. I was president of the Juvenile and Criminal Bars.