

NAME: B.T. Parker
PARTY: Non-Partisan
SEEKING: Superior Court Judge, Division 3

1. Why are you seeking the office?

A Superior Court Judge is the only elected official with the legal authority to take away a person's life, children and property. I take that responsibility very seriously, and have the ability to make tough decisions that are fair, impartial and just. I respect the integrity of the Gwinnett judicial system, and have an even deeper respect for our Constitution. And, I want to help every Gwinnettian have the same trust and respect for our court system.

2. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I am uniquely qualified for this position. In addition to being a trial attorney and practicing law in Gwinnett for 24 years, I am the only candidate who has a platform which identifies how I will make Gwinnett greater. I will establish a Second Chance Accountability Court for non-violent and non-sexual offenders. I will create a Prison-Prevention Program which will educate and bring Juvenile Justice into the classroom. And, I am uniquely qualified for this position as I have litigated cases in about 100 of the 159 counties. Thus, I will bring efficient practices learned from other counties to Gwinnett.

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

Judges should not legislate. A good judge will not "legislate" laws or the Constitution, but rather seek to apply the law and the Constitution to the unique facts and circumstances of each case before him or her. No matter my personal opinion of any law, it's not up to me, as Judge, to change it. The rule of law and the words of the Constitution are not changeable in a courtroom –only the facts of each case are different. And, Judges must apply the laws to the facts, impartially, fairly and consistently.

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

I am a 2019 Recipient of the 100 Most Influential Women in Georgia Award, according to Global Women Wealth Warrior, an organization which Governor Kemp recognizes for leadership, mentorship, and financial literacy. I was selected, in part, because I've represented the working class, corporations, celebrities, and the poor. I've served as a foster parent to Gwinnett, have a teenage daughter, and have been

responsible for the education and safety of 478 students at a charter school. I've served on numerous boards. I've travelled to over 20 countries in the last 2 years. Thus, I appreciate different cultures and individual's circumstances.

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

In a post-pandemic court system, judges will be challenged in that there maybe an expectation that hearings, for instance, be allowed to take place virtually. After all, through this pandemic period, people and businesses have found ways to continue to have forums, conferences, exercise classes, etc. without people being in the same room. We have gotten creative. There maybe the expectation that courts get creative too, to alleviate backlog. That's one of the reasons I will create a Judicial Efficiency Committee--so I can work with the judges to create a more efficient experience for the citizens of Gwinnett.

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

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin, Madison, for my Bachelor's in Business Administration and my Juris Doctorate. Moved to Gwinnett County in 1996, and have practiced law here ever since. My husband, daughter, and I live here. I've been committed to serving our children and Gwinnett County as a foster parent, a volunteer attorney with Gwinnett Legal Aid, volunteer attorney with the Gwinnett Truancy Intervention Project, volunteer cheerleading coach for Gwinnett's Grayson Athletic Association, and as president and member of various boards. I'll bring that same commitment to Gwinnett Superior Court! Experienced! Tough! Fair!
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