

NAME: Sarah Hawkins Warren
PARTY: Non-Partisan
SEEKING: Supreme Court of Georgia

1. Why are you seeking the office?

It has been a privilege to serve on the Supreme Court of Georgia for the past year and a half. The cases our Court decides are of great importance to the people involved and to the public. My background in litigation and appellate work, and my experience on the Court thus far, has equipped me to fulfill the responsibility of being one of nine Justices who interprets the Georgia Constitution, the U.S. Constitution, and the law to decide those cases. I am running to retain my seat because I want to continue serving our State for a full six-year term.

2. What distinguishes your candidacy?

Three things set me apart as I seek to retain my seat on Georgia's highest court. First, my appellate experience: as Georgia's Solicitor General, I coordinated appellate advocacy for the State Law Department and presented argument before the U.S. Supreme Court and Georgia Supreme Court. Second, my work as a Justice: over the past year and a half, I have distinguished myself as a hard-working, fair, and impartial Justice who interprets the law as it is written. And third, I am one of only five women in history who have served on the Georgia Supreme Court.

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

Judges must interpret the law faithfully, without bias, and apart from personal opinion. Judges should also respect the separation of powers in our three-branch system of government. Judges are not legislators or executives, and they should not engage in results-oriented legal analysis that ignores the text of laws that have been passed by elected representatives or that interprets the Georgia or U.S. Constitutions based on what judges would have preferred those documents to say. To faithfully interpret the law, a judge must examine the text of the relevant constitutional provisions and laws and interpret the text as it is written.

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

Having worked for two federal judges and presented argument before many more, I understand the importance and difficulty of deciding hard cases. My academic training and years of legal practice have given me the tools I need to engage in rigorous legal analysis and to make tough decisions. But I also have the right

temperament for a judge: I'm willing to ask tough questions, but always treat the parties with respect. I am consistent in my judicial philosophy and in my commitment to deciding cases fairly and impartially.

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

The work of Georgia's judiciary has been admirable during this pandemic; judges are working hard to keep the public safe while also conducting essential business and other business they can conduct safely. In a post-pandemic world, Georgia judges will need to work diligently to handle the many cases that could not be adjudicated during the judicial emergency, while also addressing new cases that are filed. Judges should also consider whether they can securely integrate more technology into their day-to-day operations while also honoring constitutional requirements for open courts.

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

I was raised in Atlanta and went to Duke for college and law school. After clerking for two federal judges, I worked at a law firm in Washington, DC. I made partner at the firm and began representing Georgia as outside counsel in the "Water Wars" case in the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2015, I returned home to work for the Georgia Attorney General. In 2017, I was appointed Solicitor General – the State's top appellate advocate – and in 2018 was appointed to the Supreme Court of Georgia. My husband and I have two energetic children ages 6 and 3!