

NAME: Maureen McIvor
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Tax Commissioner

1. Why are you seeking your office?

I believe that we should all work to serve our community. When I see my neighbors confused by their property tax bill, seniors missing out on exemptions to which they are entitled, and residents hard-working having to take time off to renew their car tag, I feel called to serve. I'm a wife, a mom, and a proud Democrat with a proven track record of serving our community. With over 20 years of business leadership here in Gwinnett County and a passion for improving our diverse community, I have the right experience to serve as your Tax Commissioner.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

My first priority will be instill a customer-first attitude as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. We must consider policies for payment plans and deferrals while protecting the revenue streams that fund our schools, first responders, and other essential county services. Next I will work to simplify our property tax bills. You shouldn't need an advanced degree to comprehend the value of your property. Every taxpayer should easily understand what they owe, how to appeal if there's a concern, how to apply for a homestead exemption when appropriate, and, if they are eligible for additional exemptions, how to access them.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

My experience. After graduating from Georgetown University, I continued working in the technology field, received an MBA from Emory University's Goizueta School of Business, and served on the board of Women in Technology. In management roles at IBM, Bellsouth, and in my current position at a healthcare technology firm, I've had the privilege of leading teams, setting goals, and keeping people accountable. Throughout my career, I've been a change agent -- always asking, "Isn't there a better way we could do this?" This passion for process improvement led to innovative service offerings, streamlined operations, and increased customer satisfaction.

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

We currently have five Tag Offices in the county. Under the current Tax Commissioner, they are open weekdays only from 8 AM to 5 PM. A single one, the Lawrenceville location, is open on Saturdays. This is for a county of a million people. These hours require Gwinnett residents to miss work or to drive to Lawrenceville on Saturdays (which could also mean

missing work) to visit a Tag Office. Under my leadership, there will be evening and weekend options when you need to visit a Tag Office, as well as greater self-service options.

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

The most important way to jump-start the economy is to get people spending again. While it may seem counterintuitive, taxes that are collected are in fact monies spent by local governments. Making it as easy and simple for people to pay their property taxes fulfills this aim.

I will advocate with government officials for increased flexibility in deferrals of tax payments for those financially struggling due to the crisis. And I don't believe this needs to wait. On March 20, I called upon the current Tax Commissioner to suspend liens and foreclosure proceedings. And he did on April 3.

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

I moved to Gwinnett in eighth grade, attending Summerour Middle and Norcross High. At Georgetown University, I majored in American Government. During my sophomore year, my father passed away. So I secured a part-time job (30 hours/week) and continued attending Georgetown, graduating on schedule. I also was lucky enough to be selected as a contestant for College Jeopardy! my senior year.

Since graduating, I've worked in the technology field at IBM, Bellsouth, and my current healthcare technology firm. I received an MBA from Emory University's Goizueta School of Business, and served on the board of Women in Technology.