

NAME: Teresa Tomlinson
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: U.S. Senate

1. Why are you seeking your office?

I am running for Senate because I cannot stand the dysfunction any longer. The United States is the greatest civic invention mankind has ever known, and it matters who runs it. I intend to be the steady hand on the wheel this nation needs. I have been providing good government to the people I have served my entire adult life: first, as an attorney specializing in complex litigation and bringing to justice some of the largest corrupt actors of the day; and, second, as the two-term mayor of Columbus, Georgia, where I implemented the policies candidates simply talk about.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

As a U.S. Senator, I will fight to expand healthcare coverage for Georgia families, tackle a regressive economic system that disadvantages the most vulnerable among us, address the increasing threat of climate change, protect reproductive freedoms, reinstate measures that guarantee the right to vote for all, and prevent inequality throughout our society.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I am the only Democratic candidate in this race who has won elections and governed as an elected official. Additionally, as the two-term mayor of Columbus, Georgia, I served as Public Safety Director and head of Homeland Security for the region. There is no one else in this race with the experience and body of accomplishment to beat David Perdue in November and successfully address the crises our nation faces as a U.S. Senator.

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

As Americans, we must address a healthcare system that is expensive and inefficient to those without means. The federal government must fully fund Medicaid so those at 138% of poverty level or less will not be denied healthcare. The government is already paying 90% on the dollar for Medicaid, and taking over that cost would be an additional \$8.5 billion/year, a bargain in the face of the \$2 trillion CARE Act. We must expand Medicare to include those who are 55+, place a public option on the ACA exchange and open it to our nearly 40 million unemployed.

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

The American people need more than a one-time check with the President's name on it. While the initial stimulus was badly-needed, everyday Americans need a continuing commitment from the government to provide assistance. Without the kinds of aggressive stimulus measures we have seen in other nations, our families will be stuck in an economic crisis for years to come. We must begin to rebuild a new economy around healthcare, new clean energy, and education. These sectors are ripe for government retraining partnerships to put our unemployed back to work and put us on the road to recovery.

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

I am the former Mayor of Columbus, GA, the second largest city in the state and a minority-majority community of 200,000 people. I was the first woman elected to that position, first in a competitive field with 68% of the vote, and re-elected with 63%. I led Columbus to be rated one of the 25 Best Run Cities in America, reduced crime by 42%, reduced the unemployment rate, and improved quality of life. During my time in office, I maintain a Secret National Security Clearance due to my position as Columbus Public Safety Director and Head of Homeland Security.