



2020 Georgia State House & Senate Candidate Questionnaire

Caroline L.Holko

Background Information

Education: B.A. Political Science, University of New Orleans

Where is home? Marietta, GA

Do you currently hold a public office? If so, how long have you held your current office? No.

Past public offices held: None.

Additional background information you'd like to share: I am a long time community organizer, and frequent attendee of public hearings of all kinds.

Georgia in General

Briefly share your qualifications for the office.

Per the state constitution I am qualified to run as a resident of Georgia for more than 2 years and of the district for more than one year and over the age of 21. More specifically, having spent the last 7 years directly advocating for the needs of not only my direct community, but for all of the citizens of Georgia I am more than ready to make the changes we need for a better Georgia for everyone. Better health, better education, better jobs.

Please indicate the reasons you are seeking election and your priorities, overarching policy interests, and any solutions for district-specific challenges.

The final straw in this terrible session was HB481. This after a session that generally eroded protections for most Georgians and did nothing to solve the growing healthcare and education crisis highlighted by the COVID 19 pandemic. I want to



see expansion of Medicaid to provide accessible healthcare to all Georgians. I want voting to be a simple and easy process using hand marked paper ballots. I want to see unions return to full strength and a living wage for all people who work.

Agriculture & Rural Georgia

What do you think are the three greatest issues facing Georgia agriculture?

Infrastructure, Health care, Education

What is your position on the Conservation Use Value Assessment (CUVA) for property taxes and the Georgia Agriculture Tax Exemption (GATE) program for exemption from sales tax for input costs? Do you support these programs? Do you believe any changes to the programs are necessary? If so, what and why?

The CUVA could potentially use a death/disability clause, as it doesn't seem to have one. I support the program, and I'd hate to see family land be lost to tax penalties if the original owner becomes unable to continue to farm/conserv. I'd like to see a cap on GATE to eliminate large corporate entities from taking this exemption. But I 100% support independent farms receiving this exemption.

House Bill 545, also known as the Right to Farm Bill, was supported by all of the major agricultural organizations in the state throughout the 2019-2020 Legislative Biennium. Does traditional agriculture and our state's right to farm laws deserve protection, and what role do you think the State should play in such protections?

I think the state should aggressively protect and promote local agriculture, which benefits both the environment by limiting emissions from transport and our local economy by keeping dollars in Georgia. Also, Georgia peaches are the best peaches and I will die on that hill.



Animal agriculture is a significant part of Georgia's economy. Animal rights groups are enacting laws around the country to regulate animal husbandry practices. Do you support the laws being enacted, which posture animal rights equal to human rights, or do you see these laws as threats to Georgia's agriculture interests?

Animals should not be abused in the process of being raised for consumption. At a minimum, animals should be housed in safe and sanitary conditions and processed humanely. I feel like animal abuse is a bigger issue in large corporate operations and less so in small operations. Humane animal treatment can be expensive - so our farmers in transition could really use some financial support in making the transition to fully humane and sustainable farming.