



2020 Georgia State House & Senate Candidate Questionnaire

Darlene Taylor

*Background Information*

**Education:** Dade County Public Schools, Thomas Technical School, Thomas College

**Where is home?** Thomasville, Georgia

**Do you currently hold a public office? If so, how long have you held your current office?** Current member of the Georgia General Assembly, Representative District 173 - 10 Years

**Past public offices held:** None

**Additional background information you'd like to share:** I am an entrepreneur and business woman in the field of health benefits. My husband and I own a small farm (Pecans, cows, chickens, pigs) in rural Georgia.

*Georgia in General*

**Briefly share your qualifications for the office.**

I am an independent business woman who has successfully built three companies while raising a family and serving in numerous leadership roles in my community. I have served as the Representative for House District 173 for 10 years and currently serve on the following committees:

- Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
- Appropriations, Chair Transportation
- Appropriations, Vice Chair Health
- Governmental Affairs
- Information & Audits (past Chair)
- Insurance (Chair the sub-committee on Health)



- Legislative & Congressional Reapportionment, Vice Chair
- Public Safety & Homeland Security
- Rules
- Transportation

Additionally, I have served on numerous Special Councils and Study Committees, most recently Rural Development Council, the Maternal Mortality Committee, Exploring a Floor and Trade Charity Care System, and House Special Investigation of Elections.

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

I am seeking re-election to be able to continue to serve the citizens of South Georgia. My priorities center around Rural issues. They include the need for rural broadband service, access to healthcare, support for our farmers and the ability to sustain and to see our rural life style flourish. We are seeing some growth in access to healthcare via telehealth and medical education with a new medical school in South Georgia. Broadband expansion trials are being done in rural parts of the state now. I am also a strong supporter of the Second Amendment and am Pro-Life.

### *Agriculture & Rural Georgia*

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

The loss of the “Family Farm” is one of the greatest threats to our Agriculture Community. Also, of importance is the continual fight over water rights and the ability of our farmers to use and protect our natural resources. No one care more for our natural resources than the farmers. Our farmers face the new world of marketing and how they are able to produce and deliver their food and fiber products.

***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 program is a major protection for our forests. It is part of our eco system and helps to maintain our land. I support the GATE program and have worked with the Commissioner to fine tune the process and audits.

***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?***

I have great concern over the belief that animals are on the same level as humans. While I support humane treatment for all animals, they are not human. I do not support the notion that animal rights are equal to human rights.