

NAME: Joyce H. Chandler
PARTY: Republican
SEEKING: State Representative, District 105



Why are you seeking your office?

No work has given me more satisfaction than helping the people of this community at a moment in their life when they're experiencing a crisis. These moments can be transformative. Helping people correct life choices gone wrong ultimately serves the highest and best purpose of the justice system and the community. While defense attorneys zealously pursue the singular best interest of their client, prosecutors pursue the public interest; to serve justice. As a prosecutor, I get to do the right thing every time. I've remained committed to that mission and never felt the call to try something different.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

Enlist the bench to initiate a Mental Health Court to provide community based treatment and intensive supervision for offenders with severe and persistent mental illness. See the CJIS project completed which will improve inter-agency communication throughout the criminal justice system and streamline the process by reducing redundant data entry. Improve communication with 35,000 witnesses subpoenaed each year by creating a text message alert system to inform them when they are required for court. It is important that we are respectful of their time and we should work to make their service to the court system as convenient as possible.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

This is not a stepping stone for me. Prosecuting misdemeanors has been my choice for 25 years. I've developed an EXPERTISE with 300+ jury trials and 70+ appeals. I have LEADERSHIP experience serving 10 years as Chief Assistant before being elected Solicitor in 2006. In addition to a BA in Business, I am a graduate of Leadership Gwinnet and Lead Academy. Gwinnett is a community of FAMILIES. I have 24 years of experience as a spouse and parent and a long history of community involvement. It's essential that your representative understand your concerns to carry out your will.

What are the key issues in your race?

Providing services to crime victims by assuring their rights are protected and providing assistance with safety planning, restitution, and community resources; Improving judicial Rosanna Aefficacy by expediting custody cases and diverting selected offenders from court to intervention programs that emphasize accountability, treatment, and supervision; Expanding accountability court options for mentally ill, drug, and alcohol offenders that

focus on treatment, reduce recidivism, and improve the lives of participants by getting them into treatment and recovery instead of jail.

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

Upon release, they should be closely monitored to assure compliance. It is irresponsible to warehouse them in jail for months only to release them without resources, direction, or a safety net. Inevitably they end up back in jail possibly having committed a more serious crime. We have developed a Mental Health Pre Trial Diversion Program to address this problem, but we need the regular and continuous supervision of the treatment/accountability Court model. I will work to get the full participation of the Bench.

Give a 100 word summary of your background.

I began in private practice, then served as Assistant District Attorney, and came to the Solicitor's Office in 1989. I've done every job in the office from answering phones, to arguing cases before the Supreme Court, managing the budget, and leading a staff of 50 exceptional public servants. I have experience delivering justice services efficiently and effectively to 8,000 victims, 10,000 defendants, 35,000 witnesses, and 100,000 ordinance violators each year. I am an expert having taught and written on DUI, domestic violence, traffic law, and trial practice. And last year, I was recognized as Georgia's Solicitor-General of the Year.