

**NAME: Scott Holcomb**

**PARTY: Democratic**

**SEEKING: State Representative, District 81**



**Why are you seeking your office?**

I believe Georgia can and must do better. In too many areas, our state is underperforming and I don't accept that. We must strengthen our economic competitiveness, invest in our educational systems, improve our transportation networks, and improve access to health care for our population. Those are just today's challenges. We must plan for the changes that are coming. It will take innovative thinking, hard work and smart investments to make sure that Georgia is thriving 20 years from now. I believe I can be useful in that work.

**What do you expect to accomplish if elected?**

I'd like to continue working on education and I won't be satisfied until Georgia really starts to improve. I think the state's future largely rests on how we tackle this challenge and I believe the key is outstanding teaching. I also intend to focus on energy. Georgia needs a plan to power our economy going forward. I'd like to continue promoting renewable energy, particularly solar, which has great potential in Georgia and has already been a source of jobs in Gwinnett and the region. Finally, I will continue to be a voice of reason and common sense at the Capitol.

**What distinguishes your candidacy?**

I bring a tremendous amount of experience to the Capitol and I get along well with members from both parties. As a former prosecutor, I understand the importance of reforming our criminal justice system. As a veteran of America's recent wars, I am a leader on issues affecting veterans and military families. As a parent of a public school student and a former part-time instructor at Georgia Tech, I care deeply about Georgia's educational system and I want it to be world class every step of the way. I work hard, I'm accessible, and I get results.

**What are the key issues in your race?**

Education will continue to be important to the residents of the 81st House District, and I will continue to be a strong leader on this issue. Voters are also concerned about the economy, and I support policies that will promote growth and lead to more employment. These include investing in our infrastructure and ensuring that we have a skilled labor force. In addition, I hear from voters who are frustrated with the lack of ethics and competence of many public officials. I fully support additional ethics reform and I've worked hard to be an effective legislator.

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

On education, I will support efforts to reduce class size. There aren't many silver bullets in education policy, but smaller class sizes have been shown to help. I will also continue to support measures to recruit and retain the best teachers. We need to go back to paying teachers a bonus when they become national board certified teachers. Finally, I support efforts to expand our STEM programs. We need to encourage our young people to study these fields.

**Give a 100 word summary of your background.**

As a husband, father, veteran, and lawyer, I know the meaning of service. I have served in the Georgia House of Representatives since 2011 and have been very effective representing the 81st district. I am an experienced lawyer who has prosecuted cases, worked at one of Atlanta's top firms, and helped businesses grow. I taught part-time at Georgia Tech and I earned an MBA from UGA while working full time and serving in the legislature. I served in the Air National Guard for six years and the U.S. Army for another six years. I deployed overseas three times.