



DOUGLAS DEMOCRATS

COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF GEORGIA

Meet the Candidates

County Commission District 2 - Special Election

Kelton Hill



Why are you a Democrat?

I am a Democrat because I believe in family and policies that support family stability and economic security for all. I also believe in a fair tax system, which promotes industry growth and innovation. I believe in affordable healthcare for all. I believe in eradicating homelessness and food deprivation.

Describe your core political values.

I believe we can and should make life better for families across our county. I support equality, justice and fairness for all by standing up for all lower and middle-class Americans. I will work to fight special interests and enact policies to balance the playing field to eradicate the systems holding our citizens back.

Housing prices are increasing and along with them property tax bills. What policies and zoning changes would you propose to help?

As housing costs are increasing faster than incomes, the need to improve housing affordability is prevalent. I would propose reforming land use regulations through reviewing our exclusionary zoning ordinances, and increasing tax revenue through increasing taxes on under used land. These modifications along with attracting more businesses to Douglas County will increase our tax base and subsequently generate more tax revenue.

Explain your top priorities for the economic and community development of Douglas County with special emphasis on District 2.

My top priorities for economic and community growth are to generate more tax revenue through creating more affordable housing and increase businesses in

Douglas County. Additionally, I seek to improve our current infrastructure through crime reduction and cosmetic appeal.

I will review our exclusionary zoning rules and review the means of relaxing the zoning laws, which will lower or control the housing prices and allow families that are less fortunate to live among our wealthier, high-opportunity neighborhoods. This can address concerns with racial segregation. This could in turn lead to better outcomes for children, including better social equity and academic success. Relaxing restrictions will result in a more productive community and increased labor mobility.

My priority in community development is ensuring that members of the community take equal responsibility and participate in the development of the community. Additional priorities include increasing social stability and enabling all members to experience a better standard of living. This is accomplished by addressing the problems at the ground level. The overall objective is to uplift the weaker and vulnerable sections of society, which may contribute towards the long-term development of the community.

The process of community and economic development are parallelly related to each other. The primary purpose of community development is to improve the quality of life, promote sustainability, encourage entrepreneurship, and create more wealth opportunities for all members. The problems that have prevailed for decades have been resolved by such projects. Sustainable development and empowerment principles are the foundation for economic development. Conducting a community development program requires the following:

- Identifying the problem.
- Understanding the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of people living in the community.
- Identifying the leaders and stakeholders who are experiencing the issues.
- Articulating the mission and vision.
- Defining the plan and developing and implementing strategies.
- Lastly, evaluating the impact of the plan and checking to see if goals and objectives have been met and if any other issues have been met.

Briefly describe your goals for improving county services, such as police, fire, waste removal, etc.

Douglas County services deliver essential services to ensure healthy, safe and vibrant communities across the county. The goal is promoting efficiency and showing a commitment to advancing our human services systems, which ultimately achieve better outcomes for residents of Douglas County and bridging the gaps between

government programs and service providers, cutting across multiple settings such as school, home and the community.

Briefly describe your philosophy on county finances and how you will approach the county budget.

I proposed that we incur surpluses and set aside funds “for a rainy day” during healthy economic times. If we experience an economic downturn, the surplus money would be used to finance essential government programs, without having to raise taxes and without causing the disadvantages of deficits. I aim to decrease government expenditures, which by default decreases taxes, while maintaining needed programs and departments. This can be accomplished through collaboration and efficient work. We will also review current expenditures through meeting with department heads to determine wasteful or inefficient spending.

How can potential volunteers contact your campaign?

Volunteers can contact my campaign by logging into my campaign website at <http://www.keltonforcommissioner.com>.



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Whitney Kenner Jones



Why are you a Democrat?

I am a Democrat because I adamantly believe that it is the moral, just, and right party. I believe that support and fairness for all is the right thing to do for Americans and this is the ONLY party that shares that same dedication. Whether it is standing up for social justice initiatives, women's rights, environmental issues, equal pay or fairness and equal access to justice, Democrats are making a way to be on the right side of history on these issues. These issues are near and dear to my heart and as long as Democrats are

committed to those issues, I will be a member of this party!

Describe your core political values.

My core political values are that nobody gets left behind. When we work together, we succeed together. It is incumbent upon us to ensure access to education, economic equity and justice are available to everybody to have the strongest chance possible at success in our community.

Housing prices are increasing and along with them property tax bills. What policies and zoning changes would you propose to help?

I believe that we need to see more policies throughout the county that mirror the proposed House Bill 404 which would include requirements that rental properties be fit and habitable; our citizens should not have to pay to live in inhospitable conditions. Further, there should be policy change so that landlords cannot ask for more than two months' rent as a security deposit. Due to the current climate at the state level, we cannot wait for them to pass this law, we need to do something at the county level in the meantime to ensure that our residents are protected and taken care of. I also believe that zoning changes for mixed-use commercial and residential developments would be a phenomenal benefit to Douglas County. Making zoning changes that would help

increase the number of people that have the opportunity to work in close proximity to where they live and reduce the dependency on vehicles and heavy commuter traffic would be a huge win both economically and environmentally for Douglas County.

Explain your top priorities for the economic and community development of Douglas County with special emphasis on District 2.

My top priorities for economic and community development are to leverage strategic partnerships from both public and private entities to continue the financial investment and business success of Douglas County while developing a strong workforce. District 2 is the economic driver of Douglas County, and we should be leveraging these businesses to develop workforce readiness programs, starting with introduction to career options in middle school and moving through hands-on experience in our high schools. Douglas County currently offers incentives and programs to support the economic growth and development of the county and makes Douglas County attractive to businesses looking to come to and stay in this area, but we need more initiatives that work directly to enhance overall workplace readiness for our residents. I would like to see the organizations and entities that are doing business here give back to the community by working with the schools and newly graduated individuals to introduce our residents to careers or fields that otherwise may have gone overlooked or undiscovered by our residents. My other economic priority would be for the county to focus on business retention. Business owners that become a part of the expanding and longevity of the community are beneficial to the residents of District 2 and to the county as a whole, as they are going to continue to enhance the economy of the county. As we continue to support these businesses, they will continue to support the residents.

Briefly describe your goals for improving county services, such as police, fire, waste removal, etc.

My goals for improving county services would be ensuring that the county services providers are equipped with a budget that accounts for keeping up with population growth. I would also like to see more code enforcement to ensure that our community maintains its values in addition to being safe and habitable for residents. I would also like to ensure that our county's infrastructure and public health providers are well funded to service the needs of the community.

Briefly describe your philosophy on county finances and how you will approach the county budget.

My philosophy on county finances is assuring that the budget remains balanced while accounting for the overall health and welfare of the county from an economic perspective and for the residents as a whole. This includes ensuring that the budget includes sufficient funding across all departments with a goal on minimizing the burden to our tax paying citizens. My approach would be to critically assess areas of the budget that could be trimmed for the benefit of residents while increasing funding to areas of need in a responsible manner, and for the benefit of our residents and businesses.

How can potential volunteers contact your campaign?

Potential volunteers can contact our campaign at www.electwhitneykennerjones.com or on instagram @whitneykennerjones



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Ruben Tillman



Why are you a Democrat?

I have worked with and for the Democratic Party for nearly a decade now. I was a delegate for the Democratic Women of Georgia Conference in my early adolescence. I volunteered for the John Ossoff campaign as well as the Stacey Abrams campaign. I worked for the Democratic Party of Georgia as well as the House Democratic Caucus, where I worked directly under Stacey Abrams. I believe that the role of government is to serve the community. Being a Democrat means that you believe in democracy. It means that you believe that every American has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is the government's job to protect and ensure said rights.

Describe your core political values.

Leading with transparency. Challenging the idea, and not the person. Accountability.

Housing prices are increasing and along with them property tax bills. What policies and zoning changes would you propose to help?

We have a lot of unincorporated land in Douglas County. Your Board of Commissioners is responsible for the zoning approvals in the county. Mixed-use and transit-oriented development is key. I plan to encourage mixed-use developments and transit-oriented development near public transportation hubs, increasing housing options and reducing transportation costs for residents. In District 2, we have access to Interstate 20 from four major roads. The new developments surrounding these entryways create a great opportunity for affordable living. As your commissioner, I can advocate for policies to protect renters from displacement, such as rent control measures, just-cause eviction policies, and tenant relocation assistance programs. I can also provide incentives or grants for homeowners to rehabilitate or renovate existing housing stock, preserving affordable housing options and maintaining

neighborhood stability. Lastly, I plan to meet regularly with community stakeholders, including residents, housing advocates, and developers, to develop comprehensive housing strategies that address local needs and priorities.

Explain your top priorities for the economic and community development of Douglas County with special emphasis on District 2.

District 2 has the highest tax-revenue in all of Douglas County. Within District 2 there is a lack of healthy food options, dining options, entertainment, and other preferences from the community. I plan on working closely with our Economic Development Authority to ensure proper infrastructure, establishments, and businesses reflect the wants of the community. I also plan to solicit heavy input from my citizens on the current and next economic developments.

The average commute time for a Douglas County resident is 33.5 minutes. That statistic is in direct correlation with the lack of economic development on the eastern side of the county. Citizens in District 2 outsource for fine dining, entertainment, retail shopping, fitness, and even grocery shopping. I want to prioritize advocating for bids from companies that reflect what our citizens have been yearning for for years.

We lack healthy food options, late-night food options, entertainment for our young adults, as well as entrepreneurship (storefronts, county sponsored vendor events, etc.).

My vision is for a community that fosters wholistic morality. I envision a neighborly community where young people can thrive, middle-aged residents are unified, and our senior citizens are secure.

Briefly describe your goals for improving county services, such as police, fire, waste removal, etc.

Right now, on the western side of the county, we are in need of renovations as well as staffing for three fire stations. We do not have ambulances at nearly half of the stations in Douglas County. That is highly concerning because the lack of ambulances per station means that constituents must wait longer for medical services if needed.

We need more police officers. We need more cameras monitoring the county to deter crime. I am in favor of budgetary items for youth initiatives, to strengthen relations with our young people and law enforcement and vice-versa.

I plan on being very involved with our county's Parks & Recreation Department. I am a youth football coach in Douglasville, so I have firsthand experience as to what the youth and parents yearn for: facilities, exposure, and community leadership.

I also plan to be heavily involved with the county's Transportation Department. We just recently cut 40 busses from our Connect Douglas fleet. That means jobs were lost, transportation was lost, and taxpayer dollars were wasted.

My goals are very feasible within the first year of my administration. The goal is to turn Douglas County into a success hub; fully capable of equipping our youth with the tools to reach their full potential. I also want to reduce the property crime arrests exponentially.

Briefly describe your philosophy on county finances and how you will approach the county budget.

County finances are not reflective of what the citizens in District 2 particularly want. We just recently defunded the Community Service Board by an exponential amount. Of our 12.5 millage rate, .386 is dedicated to your mental, physical, and disability health. We have cut all ties with all state entities and nonprofits who were partnered with the county in an effort to "grow government." We pay government employees to get the community to do the work, for half the cost, then we defund the community. Taxpayer dollars are being improperly allocated to other sectors of the government, and the citizens see no fruits of their labor unless they are in legal trouble. I plan to restore the funding to the community service board and levy for mandates to protect their funding since the defunding was in clear violation of H.B. 403 and S.B. 1013.

How can potential volunteers contact your campaign?

Email: Electrubentillman.com; Website: www.rubentillman.com

Campaign Contact: (347) 820-3478 Sashana Whyte