



**Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire**  
**For**  
**2020 Election**  
**of**  
**DeKalb County State Delegation Candidates**

**April 2020**



## Ethics Voter Guide

### A message to DeKalb voters

As candidates and voters alike wrestle with the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, election season progresses and ethics legislation for the DeKalb Board of Ethics continues to be stalled in the Georgia General Assembly.

DeKalb Citizens Advocacy Council (DeKalb Citizens) remains committed to keeping ethics legislation on the agenda of DeKalb state legislators and on the radar of DeKalb citizens. With that in mind, DeKalb Citizens surveyed all DeKalb House and Senate candidates in order to create a voter guide focused on the issue.

Completed questionnaires were received from 21 of the 46 candidates registered with the DeKalb Board of Elections, for a response rate of 46%. Respondents included 7 Incumbents and 14 challengers. A summary of all responses can be found on pages 5-6, followed by a report starting on page 8 for each House and Senate district where a candidate responded. A listing of those candidates who did and did not respond is on page 7.

Our mission is to educate the citizens of DeKalb County about county governance issues, advocate for informed citizen engagement, and encourage transparency in county government. We do not endorse candidates. Conducting the voter education project provided an opportunity for incumbents and challengers alike to communicate publicly their thoughts about ethics legislation.

We applaud those candidates who participated and respect the opinions they voiced in their responses and comments. For those candidates who did not participate, we would ask them to consider if they are acting in the best interest of citizens by not responding. And, we would remind them of this passage from a 2013 DeKalb Grand Jury special report on ethics:

“In this country, governmental organizations derive their authority from the trust and confidence placed in it by its citizens. Without this trust, representative democracy could not exist either because people would not respect the authority of their institutions, or because government would usurp that authority for itself, and cease acting in the interest of its citizens... Ethics provides the roadmap for behavior that promotes essential public trust in government.”



DeKalb County citizens continue to ask for a strong Board of Ethics and for legislation to be passed that addresses the board appointment process. A summary of all responses included in this report indicates that most of the candidates, incumbents included, agree that:

- a bill should be passed that remedies the one defect in the Board structure so the Board can get up and running as soon as possible;
- the Board of Ethics should be completely independent and have sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including its policies and procedures; and
- direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for employees to express concerns about ethics violation.

### **Methodology**

On April 2, 2020, DeKalb Citizens emailed a questionnaire to all DeKalb House and Senate candidates qualified to run for office as of March 6, 2020. The questionnaire included a description of DeKalb Citizens, identified the project and the purpose of the project, and provided background regarding ethics legislation from 2014 to the present. Nine questions followed, calling for yes/no answers and comments. Candidates were encouraged to mark the answer that most closely represented their opinion and to provide additional comments if desired. Candidates were initially asked to respond by April 10, 2020. Follow-up efforts were made by phone calls and emails to encourage additional responses.



## Background

**2014 to 2016:** DeKalb County's Code of Ethics, under which our Board of Ethics currently operates, was researched and reviewed by several citizen and legislative committees, presented and discussed at a number of public forums in 2014. The Code was based on model ordinances and was passed out of the General Assembly in 2015 with a nearly unanimous vote. The resulting referendum to form an independent Board of Ethics was approved by 92% of DeKalb voters in November 2015 and took effect on January 1, 2016.

**2018:** In an August 2018 decision, the Supreme Court of Georgia struck down a single provision in the Code, dealing with the method of appointment of four of the seven members of the Board of Ethics. All other provisions of the Code remain intact, including the appointments of the other three seated Board members, the Ethics Office itself, ethics education and training, and operating policies and procedures. However, as a result of that decision, the Board does not have a quorum to meet and act on several pending ethics complaints.

**2019:** During the 2019 legislative session, a bill was passed by the DeKalb Delegation and the General Assembly to fix the appointment process for the four Board of Ethics members, but to also make significant changes to the independence of the board and the management of the Ethics Office. In November 2019, 61% of DeKalb voters rejected the more extensive revision. In addition, the DeKalb CEO signed an executive order creating the Charter Review Commission which will include a review of the County Code of Ethics.

**2020:** The DeKalb County legislative delegation and the General Assembly must still pass legislation amending the appointment process for the members of the Board of Ethics, consistent with the Georgia Supreme Court decision, in order for the Board to be able to meet and act again.

# DEKALB CITIZENS

— ADVOCACY COUNCIL —

In November 2019, voters overwhelmingly defeated a ballot referendum 61% **NO** to 39% **YES** on revisions to the DeKalb County Code of Ethics that would have significantly weakened Ethics oversight in the county. The chart below shows those votes for each House and Senate district.

## HOUSE

% Yes	% No	District	
36.0%	64.0%	79	Wilensky
39.2%	60.8%	80	Wilson
29.1%	70.9%	81	Holcomb
17.7%	82.3%	82	Oliver
27.2%	72.8%	83	Evans
25.1%	74.9%	84	Shannon
39.7%	60.3%	85	Drenner
26.9%	73.1%	86	M. Henson
46.3%	53.7%	87	Davis
41.7%	58.3%	88	Mitchell
32.5%	67.5%	89	Nguyen
67.4%	32.6%	90	Stephenson
74.2%	25.8%	91	V. Jones
73.8%	26.2%	92	Carter
66.9%	33.1%	93	Kendrick
66.9%	33.1%	94	Bennett
38.7%	61.3%	Total	

## SENATE

% Yes	% No		
64.6%	35.4%	10	E. Jones
34.9%	65.1%	40	Harrell
40.4%	59.6%	41	S. Henson
18.3%	81.7%	42	Parent
74.6%	25.4%	43	Anderson
53.5%	46.5%	44	Davenport
66.2%	35.8%	55	Butler
38.7%	61.3%	Total	

The deeper the Green, the stronger YES% for referendum  
 The deeper the Red, the stronger NO% for referendum



## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire - SUMMARY

### RESPONSE SUMMARY

# of YES responses based on 21 questionnaires returned	# YES RESPONSES
<p>1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</i></p>	19 (90%)
<p>2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</i></p>	16 (76%)
<p>3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</i></p>	20 (95%)
<p>4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</i></p>	20 (95%)
<p>5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</i></p>	18 (86%)

**RESPONSE SUMMARY**

<p>6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.  <i>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</i></p>	<p>18 (86%)</p>
<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics.  <i>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</i></p>	<p>15 (71%)</p>
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County.  <i>Do you agree with this provision?</i></p>	<p>18 (86%)</p>
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all.  <i>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</i></p>	<p>16 (76%)</p>

# DEKALB CITIZENS

— ADVOCACY COUNCIL —

## CANDIDATES WHO RESPONDED TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

House District	Candidate	Incumbent	Responded Y / N
79	Wilensky (D)	I	N
79	Johnson (R)		N
80	Wilson (D)	I	Y
80	Cole (R)		N
81	Holcomb (D)	I	Y
82	Oliver (D)	I	Y
83	Evans (D)	I	Y
83	Maloof (D)		Y
84	Shannon (D)	I	N
84	Codi (D)		Y
85	Drenner (D)	I	N
86	Henson (D)	I	Y
86	Bolton (D)		Y
86	Lopez (D)		Y
86	O'Neil (D)		Y
87	Davis (D)	I	N
88	Mitchell (D)	I	N
89	Nguyen (D)	I	N
89	Ridley (D)		N
90	Stephenson (D)	I	N
90	Shealey (D)		Y
90	Watson (D)		N
91	V. Jones (D)*	I	N
91	Taylor (D)		Y
92	Carter (D)	I	N
93	Kendrick (D)	I	N
93	Reynolds (D)		Y
93	Owens (R)		N
94	Bennett (D)	I	N

Senate District	Candidate	Incumbent	Responded Y / N
10	E. Jones (D)	I	N
10	Raeferd (D)		Y
40	Harrell (D)	I	Y
40	Guan (R)		Y
41	G. Freeman (D)		N
41	Hossein (D)		N
41	Jackson (D)		N
41	B. Jones (D)		Y
41	McKenzie (D)*		N
41	W. Freeman (R)		N
42	Parent (D)	I	Y
43	Anderson (D)	I	N
43	Williams (R)		Y
44	Davenport (D)	I	N
44	Johnson (D)		Y
44	Brooks (R)		Y
55	Butler (D)	I	N

\*These candidates are no longer on the ballot.





# **Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire Responses**

**By House and Senate District**

# DEKALB CITIZENS

— ADVOCACY COUNCIL —

## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

**HOUSE DISTRICT 80**

**Matthew Wilson**  
Incumbent  
Democrat

**Alan Cole**  
Republican

<b>Composite Score [ Score is based on the number of YES responses to the 9 questions. ]</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Did not respond</b>
<p>1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</i></p>	Y*	
<p>2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</i></p>	Y	
<p>3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</i></p>	Y	
<p>4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</i></p>	Y	
<p>5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</i></p>	Y	
<p>6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.</p> <p><i>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</i></p>	Y	

**HOUSE DISTRICT 80**

<b>Matthew Wilson</b>	<b>Alan Cole</b>
Incumbent Democrat	Republican

<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics. <i>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</i></p>	Y	
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County. <i>Do you agree with this provision?</i></p>	Y	
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all. <i>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</i></p>	Y	

Wilson Comments

\*Q1 (YES): That is why I introduced a "clean-fix" bill at the beginning of the 2020 legislative session.



## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

**HOUSE DISTRICT 81**

**Scott  
Holcomb**  
Incumbent  
Democrat

<b>Composite Score [ Score is based on the number of YES responses to the 9 questions. ]</b>	<b>9</b>
<p>1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</i></p>	Y
<p>2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</i></p>	Y
<p>3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</i></p>	Y
<p>4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</i></p>	Y
<p>5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</i></p>	Y
<p>6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.</p> <p><i>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</i></p>	Y

**HOUSE DISTRICT 81**

<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics.  <i>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</i></p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County.  <i>Do you agree with this provision?</i></p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all.  <i>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</i></p>	<p>Y</p>



## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

Mary  
Margaret  
Oliver  
Incumbent  
Democrat

### HOUSE DISTRICT 82

<b>Composite Score [ Score is based on the number of YES responses to the 9 questions. ]</b>	<b>9</b>
<p>1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</i></p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</i></p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</i></p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</i></p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</i></p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.</p> <p><i>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</i></p>	<p>Y</p>

**HOUSE DISTRICT 82**

<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics.  <i><b>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</b></i></p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County.  <i><b>Do you agree with this provision?</b></i></p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all.  <i><b>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</b></i></p>	<p>Y</p>



## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

### HOUSE DISTRICT 83

**Becky Evans**  
Incumbent Democrat

**Audrey Maloof**  
Democrat

Composite Score [ Score is based on the number of YES responses to the 9 questions. ]	9	9
<p>1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</i></p>	Y*	Y
<p>2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</i></p>	Y	Y*
<p>3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</i></p>	Y	Y
<p>4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</i></p>	Y	Y
<p>5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</i></p>	Y	Y
<p>6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.</p> <p><i>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</i></p>	Y	Y





**HOUSE DISTRICT 83**

**Becky Evans**  
Incumbent Democrat

**Audrey Maloof**  
Democrat

<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</i></p>	Y	Y*
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this provision?</i></p>	Y	Y
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</i></p>	Y	Y

Evans Comments

\*Q1 (YES): I would also be in favor of Rep. Davis' bill, LC289688, that includes in Sect. 2: no DeKalb employee shall accept a gift, Sect 3: recusal for conflict of interest and Sect 4: includes alternates for appointment process.

Maloof Comments

\*Q2 (YES): Legislative sessions are short. I think it is appropriate to have a separate body working in tandem with the delegation.

\*Q7 (YES): Or a combination of degrees and experience that equate to that level of expertise.



## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

### HOUSE DISTRICT 84

**Renitta Shannon**  
Incumbent  
Democrat

**Harmel Codi**  
Democrat

Composite Score [ Score is based on the number of YES responses to the 9 questions. ]	Did not respond	9
<p>1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</i></p>		Y
<p>2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</i></p>		Y
<p>3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</i></p>		Y
<p>4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</i></p>		Y
<p>5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</i></p>		Y
<p>6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.</p> <p><i>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</i></p>		Y

**HOUSE DISTRICT 84**

**Renitta Shannon**  
 Incumbent  
 Democrat

**Harmel Codi**  
 Democrat

<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics.  <i>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</i></p>		Y
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County.  <i>Do you agree with this provision?</i></p>		Y
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all.  <i>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</i></p>		Y



## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

### HOUSE DISTRICT 86

<b>Michele Henson</b> Incumbent Democrat	<b>Ladena Bolton</b> Democrat	<b>Zulma Lopez</b> Democrat	<b>Joscelyn O'Neil</b> Democrat
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<b>Composite Score [ Score is based on the number of YES responses to the 9 questions. ]</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>
<p>1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</i></p>	Y	Y	Y*	Y
<p>2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</i></p>	Y	Y*	Y*	Y
<p>3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</i></p>	Y	Y	Y*	Y*
<p>4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</i></p>	Y	Y	Y*	Y
<p>5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</i></p>	Y	Y*	Y*	Y

## HOUSE DISTRICT 86

<b>Michele Henson</b> Incumbent Democrat	<b>Ladena Bolton</b> Democrat	<b>Zulma Lopez</b> Democrat	<b>Joscelyn O’Neil</b> Democrat
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<p>6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.</p> <p><b><i>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</i></b></p>	Y	Y*	Y*	N
<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics.</p> <p><b><i>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</i></b></p>	Y*	Y	Y*	Y
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County.</p> <p><b><i>Do you agree with this provision?</i></b></p>	Y	Y	Y*	Y*
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all.</p> <p><b><i>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</i></b></p>	Y	Y	Y*	N*

Henson Comments

\*Q7 (YES): I believe there should be a time limit.

Bolton Comments

\*Q2 (YES): The CRC is a great addition to an engaged DeKalb Delegation

\*Q5 (YES): County employees should have access to both HR and the ethics office depending on the claim.

\*Q6 (YES): In the event that the Board cannot reach a decision, in a timely manner, on a specific issue, a prescribed strategy should be followed.



\*Q7 (YES): The ethics officer should have experience and expertise in ethics.

\*Q9 (YES): The ethics officer should not have more power but rather, different powers than the board.

#### Lopez Comments

\*Q1 (YES): Absolutely, the citizens of DeKalb County have overwhelmingly expressed their desire to put the Board of Ethics to work without further delay. A bill that simply cures the board's appointment process so that it complies with the 2018 Supreme Court of Georgia's decision will do just that. This is even more evident after the defeat of the November 2019 referendum in which the voters rejected any watering down or weakening of the board. In addition, the latest legislative discussions on this topic have shown us that trying to tackle more than this simple fix results in deadlock. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support a bill that only deals with the appointment process

\*Q2 (YES): It is evident to me that any further discussions on future changes to the Code of Ethics through the legislative process will result in an impasse. In addition, a 17-member commission, in which members are appointed not only by the DeKalb delegations of the House and Senate but also by other local government branches, seems to be better equipped to handle potential future changes to the Code of Ethics.

\*Q3 (YES): I strongly agree with keeping the Board of Ethics independent from any individual employee or government agent that may be under its scope of investigation. It wouldn't make any sense to me otherwise. Besides, members to the board will now have to be appointed exclusively by elected officials, which should assure those elected officials that their rights will be represented in board proceedings.

\*Q4 (YES): See response to question 3 above. Members of the board should be neutral and impartial.

\*Q6 (YES): See also response to question 3 above.

\*Q7 (YES): The ethics officer is required to investigate, make determinations of probable cause, and present findings to the board. These duties are not menial or clerical in nature. I support both having a law degree and ethics background as requirements for this position.

\*Q8 (YES): Also an unethical determination by the board should weigh on future re-hiring and/or contracts.

\*Q9 (YES): I disagree with the proposition that the ethics officer serves as the sole "judge, jury, and executioner." I do believe that the ultimate adjudicator is the board and that is why we need a strong and functioning Board of Ethics now.

#### O'Neil Comments

\*Q3 (YES): No one body should have total control. This body must answer to Solicitor, District Attorney, etc.

\*Q8 (YES): Crimes should go to the legal department: District Attorney or Solicitor.

\*Q9 (NO): This is a board and the issues must be decided by the "Board of Ethics". Policies and Procedures are set. Follow the procedures.



## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

### HOUSE DISTRICT 90

<b>Pamela Stephenson</b> Incumbent Democrat	<b>Greg Shealey</b> Democrat	<b>Stan Watson</b> Democrat
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<b>Composite Score [ Score is based on the number of YES responses to the 9 questions. ]</b>	<b>Did not respond</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Did not respond</b>
<p>1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</i></p>		N*	
<p>2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</i></p>		No answer*	
<p>3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</i></p>		Y	
<p>4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</i></p>		Y	
<p>5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</i></p>		Y	
<p>6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.</p> <p><i>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</i></p>		N	

## HOUSE DISTRICT 90

<b>Pamela Stephenson</b> Incumbent Democrat	<b>Greg Shealey</b> Democrat	<b>Stan Watson</b> Democrat
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<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics.</p> <p><b><i>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</i></b></p>		N	
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County.</p> <p><b><i>Do you agree with this provision?</i></b></p>		Y	
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all.</p> <p><b><i>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</i></b></p>		N	

Shealey Comments

\*Q1 (NO): There need to be more changes.

\*Q2 (NO ANSWER): It may be possible.





## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

**HOUSE DISTRICT 91**

**Vernon Jones**  
Incumbent Democrat

**Rhonda Taylor**  
Democrat

Composite Score [ Score is based on the number of YES responses to the 9 questions. ]	Did not respond	9
<p>1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</i></p>		Y*
<p>2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</i></p>		Y*
<p>3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</i></p>		Y*
<p>4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</i></p>		Y*
<p>5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</i></p>		Y*
<p>6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.</p> <p><i>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</i></p>		Y*

**HOUSE DISTRICT 91**

<b>Vernon Jones</b> Incumbent Democrat	<b>Rhonda Taylor</b> Democrat
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<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics.</p> <p><b><i>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</i></b></p>		Y*
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County.</p> <p><b><i>Do you agree with this provision?</i></b></p>		Y*
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all.</p> <p><b><i>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</i></b></p>		Y*

Taylor Comments

- \*Q1 (YES): The Supreme Court ruling is crystal clear and identifies the area that should be changed. The focus should be here.
- \*Q2 (YES): It is important that the process is non-partisan; thus, a commission helps to ensure fairness.
- \*Q3 (YES): The board should remain independent to ensure no partisan persuasion.
- \*Q4 (YES): I think it may create a conflict of interest. This must be avoided.
- \*Q5 (YES): They should be protected from repercussion or reporting any unethical activity.
- \*Q6 (YES): The Board should have authority over its functioning so that it is neutral to the complaints it receives.
- \*Q7 (YES): Completely support this as a requirement.
- \*Q8 (YES): A crime is a crime whether you are discovered a day after it is committed or months afterwards; you should be convicted.
- \*Q9 (YES): The Ethics Officer has a role and that role is not all imcumbersome. The board members also have a voice and a vote.



## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

### HOUSE DISTRICT 93

<b>Dar'shun Kendrick</b> Incumbent Democrat	<b>Alfred Reynolds</b> Democrat	<b>Hubert Owens Jr.</b> Republican
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<b>Composite Score [ Score is based on the number of YES responses to the 9 questions. ]</b>	<b>Did not respond</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Did not respond</b>
<p>1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</i></p>		Y*	
<p>2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</i></p>		Y*	
<p>3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</i></p>		Y*	
<p>4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</i></p>		Y*	
<p>5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</i></p>		N*	
<p>6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.</p> <p><i>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</i></p>		Y*	

## HOUSE DISTRICT 93

<b>Dar'shun Kendrick</b> Incumbent Democrat	<b>Alfred Reynolds</b> Democrat	<b>Hubert Owens Jr.</b> Republican
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<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics.</p> <p><b><i>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</i></b></p>		N*	
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County.</p> <p><b><i>Do you agree with this provision?</i></b></p>		N*	
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all.</p> <p><b><i>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</i></b></p>		Y*	

Reynolds Comments

- \*Q1 (YES): I concur with the Georgia Supreme Court that the current Board of Ethics must be amended. I agree that a bill should be passed.
- \*Q2 (YES): The DeKalb Delegation is not the appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics.
- \*Q3 (YES): The independence of the Board of Ethics is appropriate and necessary because it prevents any board members to be manipulated by private entities.
- \*Q4 (YES): Prior affiliations of the newly appointed to the Board of Ethics may be subjects to manipulations from public or private entities. Former employees or former contractors for a reason or another have a type of affiliations that is different from someone who doesn't have any working contact with the county.
- \*Q5 (NO): It depends of what the employee is complaining about that he/she shouldn't go first to Human Resources. However, the door should be left open for the employee to decide where it needs to go.
- \*Q6 (YES): This allows the Board of Ethics to be independent and not to be influenced or manipulated.
- \*Q7 (NO): It is not necessary for a member of the Board of Ethics to have a legal education before being appointed because the board can be confronted by other problems where someone with another formatives can help.
- \*Q8 (NO): I believe once the employee or the independent contractor is not employed by DeKalb County anymore, all actions made by the Board of Ethics should be discontinued.
- \*Q9 (YES): However, an employee or an independent contractor who is a subject of a complaint should be allowed representation or due process.



## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

### SENATE DISTRICT 10

**Emanuel Jones**  
Incumbent Democrat

**Maurice Raeford**  
Democrat

Composite Score [ Score is based on the number of YES responses to the 9 questions. ]	Did not respond	9
<p>1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</i></p>		Y
<p>2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</i></p>		Y
<p>3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</i></p>		Y
<p>4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</i></p>		Y
<p>5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</i></p>		Y
<p>6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.</p> <p><i>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</i></p>		Y



**SENATE DISTRICT 10**

<b>Emanuel Jones</b>	<b>Maurice Raeford</b>
Incumbent	Democrat
Democrat	Democrat

<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</i></p>		Y
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this provision?</i></p>		Y
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</i></p>		Y



## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

### SENATE DISTRICT 40

**Sally Harrell**  
Incumbent Democrat

**Garry Guan**  
Republican

<b>Composite Score [ Score is based on the number of YES responses to the 9 questions. ]</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.  <i><b>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</b></i>	Y	Y
2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.  <i><b>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</b></i>	Y	Y
3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.  <i><b>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</b></i>	Y	Y
4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.  <i><b>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</b></i>	Y	Y
5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.  <i><b>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</b></i>	Y	Y
6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.  <i><b>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</b></i>	Y	Y

**SENATE DISTRICT 40**

<b>Sally Harrell</b> Incumbent Democrat	<b>Garry Guan</b> Republican
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<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics. <i><b>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</b></i></p>	Y	N
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County. <i><b>Do you agree with this provision?</b></i></p>	N	Y
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all. <i><b>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</b></i></p>	Y	Y





## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

Gil Freeman (D)  
 Mohammad  
 Hossein (D)  
 Kim Jackson (D)  
 Sabrina McKenzie (D)  
 William Freeman (R)

### SENATE DISTRICT 41

Beverly Jones (D)

Composite Score [ Score is based on the number of YES responses to the 9 questions. ]	5	Did not respond
1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.  <i>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</i>	Y	
2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.  <i>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</i>	N	
3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.  <i>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</i>	Y	
4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.  <i>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</i>	Y	

Gil Freeman (D)  
Mohammad  
Hossein (D)  
Kim Jackson (D)  
Sabrina McKenzie (D)  
William Freeman (R)

**SENATE DISTRICT 41**

Beverly Jones (D)

<p>5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</i></p>	N	
<p>6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.</p> <p><i>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</i></p>	N	
<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</i></p>	Y	
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this provision?</i></p>	Y	
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</i></p>	N	



## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

**SENATE DISTRICT 42**

**Elena Parent**  
Incumbent Democrat

<b>Composite Score [ Score is based on the number of YES responses to the 9 questions. ]</b>	<b>9</b>
<p>1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</i></p>	Y*
<p>2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</i></p>	Y*
<p>3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</i></p>	Y*
<p>4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</i></p>	Y*
<p>5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</i></p>	Y*
<p>6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.</p> <p><i>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</i></p>	Y*

**SENATE DISTRICT 42**

<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics. <i>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</i></p>	Y*
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County. <i>Do you agree with this provision?</i></p>	Y*
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all. <i>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</i></p>	Y*

Parent Comments

- \*Q1 (YES): I would still vote "yes" on a bill that made other minor changes (instituting a recusal process).
- \*Q2 (YES): 100%
- \*Q3 (YES): Independence is necessary for proper oversight.
- \*Q4 (YES): These individuals are not independent.
- \*Q5 (YES): If they are ethic concerns, they should be addressed by the Ethics department!
- \*Q6 (YES): The General Assembly also has a role in setting the structure up.
- \*Q7 (YES): Having well-qualified staff is paramount to assist the volunteer board.
- \*Q8 (YES): It is appropriate that closure be brought to a matter.
- \*Q9 (YES): This is an appropriate delineation of duties and responsibilities.



## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

### SENATE DISTRICT 43

**Tonya Anderson**  
Incumbent  
Democrat

**Melanie Williams**  
Republican

Composite Score [ Score is based on the number of YES responses to the 9 questions. ]	Did not respond	4
<p>1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</i></p>		Y
<p>2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</i></p>		N*
<p>3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</i></p>		Y*
<p>4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</i></p>		N*
<p>5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</i></p>		N*
<p>6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.</p> <p><i>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</i></p>		Y

**SENATE DISTRICT 43**

**Tonya Anderson**  
Incumbent  
Democrat

**Melanie Williams**  
Republican

<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics. <i>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</i></p>		<p style="text-align: center;">N*</p>
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County. <i>Do you agree with this provision?</i></p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Y*</p>
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all. <i>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</i></p>		<p style="text-align: center;">N*</p>

Williams Comments

- \*Q2 (NO): The Board of Ethics needs the full authority of its entire board members to make sound and fair decisions to be able to perform its duties.
- \*Q3 (YES): The Board of Ethics should remain independent and free from bias and corruption.
- \*Q4 (NO): The Board of Ethics must maintain its integrity and public trust that favoritism is inappropriate, and the hiring process remain fair for Dekalb County.
- \*Q5 (NO): There should be some oversight of employee complaints and concerns to be resolved on a Human Resource resolved. If those complaints are not handled in a timely fashion, then the matter can be expedited to the Board of Ethics. Dekalb County’s Human Resources should be made aware of any concerns an employee may have.
- \*Q7 (NO): Personal and Business experience should be considered. An A.A.S in Business Management or Business Administration should also be considered.
- \*Q8 (YES): All cases from complaints or concerns made by county officials, employee’s or independent contractors should have an open file for up to 3 years after leaving its position.
- \*Q9 (NO): The Board of Ethics should have sole authority to make decisions regarding ethics complaints. The Board of Ethics has authority to administer and enforce the Standard Code of Ethics within its jurisdiction



## Ethics Voter Guide Questionnaire

### SENATE DISTRICT 44

<b>Gail Davenport</b> Incumbent Democrat	<b>Myah Johnson</b> Democrat	<b>Benjamin Brooks</b> Republican
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<b>Composite Score [ Score is based on the number of YES responses to the 9 questions. ]</b>	<b>Did not respond</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
<p>1. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that the appointment process of only four of the seven members of the current Board of Ethics must be amended in order for the Board to be able to perform its duties.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that a bill should be passed that remedies just that one defect in the Board structure so that the Board can get up and running as soon as possible?</i></p>		N	Y*
<p>2. Aside from the reappointment of these four Board members, other changes to the Code of Ethics could be recommended by the DeKalb Charter Review Commission after conducting research, receiving input from experts in the field, and eliciting comments from citizens through open meetings and Town Halls.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that the Charter Review Commission is a more appropriate body to make informed decisions regarding additional amendments to the Code of Ethics than the DeKalb Delegation can make during a legislative session?</i></p>		N	N*
<p>3. The Board of Ethics currently is completely independent and is not subject to control or supervision by the CEO, the Board of Commissioners, or any other official or employee or agency of the County government.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that this independence is appropriate and necessary?</i></p>		Undecided	Y*
<p>4. Individuals employed by the County or under contract to the County or Board of Ethics are not allowed to be appointed to the Board.</p> <p><i>Do you agree with this condition for appointment?</i></p>		Y	Y
<p>5. County employees have direct access to the Ethics office to express concerns about ethics violations. They do not have to go through DeKalb County's Human Resources department first.</p> <p><i>Do you agree that direct access to the Ethics office is the most appropriate path for these types of employee complaints?</i></p>		Y	Y
<p>6. The DeKalb Board of Ethics has sole authority over the Ethics office and operations, including policies and procedures.</p> <p><i>Do you approve of the Board having this sole authority?</i></p>		Y	Y

**SENATE DISTRICT 44**

<b>Gail Davenport</b> Incumbent Democrat	<b>Myah Johnson</b> Democrat	<b>Benjamin Brooks</b> Republican
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<p>7. The Ethics Officer is required to have a legal degree and specific experience and expertise in ethics. <i><b>Do you agree with these education and experience requirements for the County's Ethics Officer?</b></i></p>		N*	N*
<p>8. The DeKalb County Code of Ethics provides that ethics complaints regarding actions taken by an official, employee, or independent contractor in the performance of their duties with the County may continue to be acted upon by the Board of Ethics even after that person is no longer in office, or employed or under contract with the County. <i><b>Do you agree with this provision?</b></i></p>		N	Undecided*
<p>9. Some have claimed that the Ethics Officer serves as the sole “judge, jury and executioner” for ethics complaints. In fact, the Ethics Officer has the limited authority to initiate, perform a preliminary investigation of, and make recommendation to the Board regarding the disposition of complaints made in accordance with the Code of Ethics. Members of the Board of Ethics have the sole authority to rule on the disposition of those ethics complaints including whether or not to consider a complaint at all. <i><b>Do you agree with this separation of powers within the Ethics office?</b></i></p>		N	Y*

Johnson Comments

\*Q7 (NO): I feel the Ethics Officer should be able to have a Political Science degree or a Legal degree.

Brooks Comments

\*Q1 (YES): Voters chose an independent board structure and this framework should be honored.

\*Q2 (NO): Citizens voted for an independent board to combat corruption and any changes should closely mirror their choice.

\*Q3 (YES): Elected officials should not be able to influence their investigation.

\*Q7 (NO): Paralegal certification, prior administrative experience or legal degree.

\*Q8 (UNDECIDED): The decision to continue should be based on the extent of the penalty to be imposed and costs to taxpayers.

\*Q9 (YES): The officer should have clear guidelines to structure his/her discretionary authority to limit abuse.