

I'm Lindsay DeFranco, and I'm running to represent House District 47.

I grew up in Alpharetta. I went to Barnwell Elementary, Haynes Bridge Middle, and Centennial High. Like a lot of people, I left, built a career, and came back to raise my family in the place I call home. My husband and I have two kids in Fulton County Public Schools. Time away teaches you what a community is worth, and how fast it can slip away.

Fifteen years ago, my husband and I co-founded an independent media company, now home to one of the most successful online news shows ever made, based on an unheard of concept at the time. The work was always about dismantling the gatekeepers who decided what ordinary people were allowed to know. I intend to do the same with politics here.

I also co-founded a media literacy nonprofit, because the news business taught me how much depends on people understanding what's being done in their name. I've spent my entire life being held publicly accountable, my work and judgment out in the open. That doesn't stop here. You may not agree with me, but you will always know where I stand. My door will always be open to you.

For years I've been showing up: testifying at the Capitol on bills most people never hear about until it's too late, sitting in on State Election Board meetings, going to city council meetings and town halls. If you're not in the room, you miss the details that matter, and the details are usually the whole story.

The government should work as hard as you do. We pay plenty. Our schools are still underfunded, our infrastructure is still struggling, and our money goes everywhere except back into this community. Why do commutes keep growing? Why do you get transferred four times when you finally reach someone at a state agency? And of the programs that do get funded, is anyone checking whether they help?

Meanwhile, the state hands \$2.5 billion in tax breaks to data centers owned by the richest companies on Earth while sitting on a \$14 billion surplus. That isn't fiscal responsibility. A budget is a list of priorities, and right now you are not on it. Property taxes climb because the state underfunds our communities and lets the bills land locally. That's a decision made at the Capitol, and the answer isn't paying more. It's demanding your dollars come home.

They promise the same things every year and fix nothing, because the problem is the product. Solve it, and they'd have nothing left to run on. When we invest early, in healthcare, safety, schools, and strong neighborhoods, we spend less and get more. That's what I mean by lower costs and higher standards.

This seat is open for the first time in 24 years. I'm not asking you to change your party or your identity. I'm asking you to expect more from the people spending your money.

With regards, Lindsay DeFranco