



U.S. House of Representatives, GA-3

General Election: November 3, 2020

Early Voting: October 12 - 30, 2020

Candidate	Drew Ferguson (R - Incumbent)	Val Almonord (D)
# Years in District	53 years	28 years
Education	Doctor of Medical Dentistry	LaGuardia Community College, 1973 Hunter College, 1977 Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine, 1983 Army Management Staff College, 2004 Troy University, 2002
Work/Professional Experience	Dentist	Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, Military Health Care System (now retired)
Community Service / Volunteerism	Mayor - West Point, GA Congressman since 2016	I am a life-long Democrat and have been a committed advocate for Georgia families for much of my career. A long-term resident of Columbus, GA, I have served as the Vice Chair of the Muscogee County Democratic Committee, Chair of the Outreach Committee of Muscogee County, and the Muscogee County delegate to the Democratic Party of Georgia. I continue to channel my military and civilian service into activism for my brothers and sisters who work in federal government service. I currently serve as the legislative and political coordinator for the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 54 in Fort Benning, GA. I am a member of St. Anne Catholic Church in Columbus, GA.
Political Experience	Mayor of West Point for nine years Congressman since 2016	I have served as a delegate to the Georgia Democratic Party, Vice Chair and Post Committee Member of the Muscogee County Democratic Committee (MCDC), as well as chair of the Outreach program of the MCDC. I am currently the Legislative and Political Coordinator for American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 54 in Fort Benning, GA.

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<p>Question 1 Describe what you believe makes Coweta County most appealing to both current and future residents.</p>	<p>Coweta is growing and primed for more growth because of the quality of life and education system. As long as we keep taxes low, Coweta is set for a bright future.</p>	<p>Coweta County has a great education system, providing stellar holistic educational options from K-12 to higher education and universities. The County also boasts a diverse and growing arts and entertainment scene. If you enjoy opera, you can partake on an evening at the Centre for Performing and Visual Arts. Outdoor enthusiasts feel at home in Carl Miller Park.</p>
<p>Question 2 What top 3 assets does Coweta possess which attract new business and stimulate growth of existing businesses?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality education 2. Workforce development and training 3. Low taxes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I believe that the culture of Coweta County attracts families and newcomers to consider the County as a home. Growth cannot happen without a highly educated and qualified work base. The friendly demeanor of residents and the high level of education are important factors in helping people decide to plant roots here. 2. Secondly, I believe the Inventory Tax Credit is a great asset to keep existing businesses and to attract new ones – the Inventory Tax exemption decreases the cost of keeping finished and unfinished goods as well as raw materials in storage. 3. Lastly, another great asset that stimulates and promotes business growth is the Georgia Consortium of Advanced Technical Training (GA CATT). It provides skilled technicians capable of diagnosing and fixing advanced manufacturing machines.
<p>Question 3 What do you think are the top challenges that could prevent economic prosperity and business growth?</p>	<p>Raising taxes and keeping Georgia a Right to Work state are crucial to business growth.</p>	<p>Economic growth and prosperity depend on the ability of community members being able to participate in and stimulate the local economy. However, the dismantling of our safety net and core government services at the same time dealing with COVID-19 has produced serious threats to the ability of many people to stay afloat, let alone participate in the local economy. Congress needs to address these threats to the system. The biggest challenge to this system is healthcare. The current lack of adequate healthcare creates a drain on economic prosperity. Millions of Georgians are uninsured or underinsured, creating massive vulnerabilities where a single health emergency can send them spiraling into poverty. Research also shows the negative externalities that transfer to</p>

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		the community at large in such a system. Uncompensated care through emergency visits or other medical interventions come out of everyone's pockets. We need to enhance our healthcare system to provide efficient preventative care which is much cheaper and decreases financial vulnerabilities caused by health problems. If we continue to fail to address adequate healthcare in our communities, we will continue to experience fragility in economic growth and prosperity.
Question 4 Describe how you would use your elected position to promote business growth and economic prosperity in Coweta County.	As Congressman, I was proud to vote for tax cuts on businesses and individuals. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I have worked to help many businesses get PPP in order to keep their doors open and payroll going.	As your member in Congress, I will work together with the elected state and local officials, and the business community to identify opportunities to attract new businesses to the 3rd District while making it easy for existing businesses to expand and grow. Part of this effort would be working to pass a stimulus package to prevent a potential negative economic impact due to COVID-19. Thousands of residents have lost their jobs or are unable to stay financially afloat in their small businesses. We need to prioritize relief so that COVID-19 does not wipe away the economic prosperity of Coweta County.
Question 5 Describe your top priority in this role and how you might approach accomplishing it.	One of my top priorities will always be to keep taxes low. However, I believe getting broadband to every house is crucial to the future of our area and the state of Georgia.	I will support legislative solutions to facilitate access to quality healthcare and prescription drugs at affordable cost, expand Medicare and Medicaid. Healthy workers are more productive and are vital to economic prosperity. Additionally, I will work with leaders to prioritize a fiscal stimulus package to protect Coweta workers and small businesses from the potential financial ruin caused and exacerbated by COVID-19.
Question 6 What can you do to support economic growth and prosperity in Coweta County, specifically?	Keep your taxes low and help provide broadband to the rural areas on the county.	I will work to encourage more local entrepreneurship as a way to increase the amount of physical capital goods in Coweta County. This will increase demands and improve the well-being of the middle class.
Question 7 What are your budget priorities and how would they impact women, Black	The pandemic environment we are currently working through required that that the government provide an outlet to help small businesses and individuals through a sudden stoppage of work. Going forward, I want to cut federal spending to ensure we can keep taxes low on everyone.	Women, Black people, and people of color deserve livable wages and safe, equitable working conditions. The right to work in a safe, equitable environment is fundamental to all Americans. I will support legislation to increase the minimum

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people, and people of color in greater Coweta communities?		wage to \$15.00 per hour, increase sick leave and vacation as well as ensure equal pay for equal work.