

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Increasing Ballot Access for Independent Candidates Honors Our Democracy

Brunswick, Georgia - Wednesday, July 1st, 2026 - As our nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we are reminded that the American experiment began with a simple but revolutionary idea: the belief that the people—not political institutions—hold ultimate authority. Our democracy exists to serve the people, and every generation has a responsibility to protect the ability of all Americans to make their voices heard.

One of the most important ways we preserve that principle is by ensuring that voters have meaningful choices at the ballot box. That includes giving qualified independent candidates a fair opportunity to appear on election ballots. A healthy democracy is not measured by the strength of political parties, but by the strength of the people's voice.

“Our democracy is strongest when elections belong to the people—not political parties,” said Rachael Thompson, Independent Candidate for Glynn County Board of Education District 4. “Elections should provide voters with meaningful choices and the opportunity to support candidates who genuinely reflect their values, priorities, and communities.”

While political parties have become a defining feature of modern American politics, several of our nation's Founders expressed deep concerns about the dangers of excessive partisanship. In his Farewell Address, George Washington cautioned that political parties could become powerful enough to place their own interests above those of the nation. James Madison warned of the dangers posed by factions, and John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and others wrestled throughout their public lives with the challenge of preventing political competition from undermining the common good.

Their warnings remain relevant today.

Millions of Americans identify as independent voters or feel that neither major party fully represents their views. Independent candidates offer voters additional perspectives, encourage broader debate, and help ensure that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents rather than solely to party leadership or partisan interests.

In Georgia, independent candidates don't automatically appear on the ballot. Instead, they must submit a nomination petition signed by registered voters. Rachael Thompson's deadline to submit the nomination petition and qualify for the November election is July

14th, 2026. Two businesses are hosting the petition in town, Broomelli Boys Pizzeria and C-Okay and Associates. To sign the petition or learn more, visit glynnchildrenfirst.org.

“How do we preserve a government that remains accountable to its citizens?”, said Thompson. “There is no better way to celebrate the birth of the USA than to provide every qualified candidate a fair opportunity to earn the public’s trust. Sign the petition today.”

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