

Campaign Website and Social Media Pages

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 - **Facebook** facebook.com/JacquelineAdamsforCommissioner
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Occupation

Businesswoman, entrepreneur, and community leader.

Neighborhood You Call Home

Hiawatha Estates.

Can You Tell Us Anything About Yourself or Your Life That You Think is Important for Voters to Know?

My name is Dr. Jacqueline Adams, and I am running to be your next Commissioner of District 7 in DeKalb County. As the wife of Bishop Dr. Gregory Adams Sr. and mother to six accomplished children—a pastor, scientist, doctor, musician, chef, and entrepreneurs—I have dedicated my life to family, community, and service. I am also a proud grandmother of 11. From an early age, I recognized the importance of hard work and giving back, which led me to open my first business at the age of 23. Since then, I have successfully owned and operated multiple businesses, including two with my husband, and co-founded the DRRLL mentoring program with my son, Dr. Gregory, to help guide young people toward a brighter future.

In addition to my work as an entrepreneur, I have served as the first female Executive Administrator and Director for two international organizations, co-founded Restoration International Ministries, and co-own AHA Security. I have also been a strong advocate for veterans and seniors, ensuring they receive the support and resources they deserve. My journey in public service began in 2015 when I was elected as Post Holder for HD86, where I gained a deep understanding of how critical local government is in shaping the lives of our residents. Now, I am seeking to serve as your next Super District 7 commissioner to bridge the gap between elected officials and the community. I am committed to ensuring safety, equality, and inclusion across DeKalb County, advocating for the fair distribution of resources, and always listening to the voices of our citizens.

Why Are You a Better Candidate Than Your Opponents?

I bring a blend of business savvy, community service, and hands-on leadership experience to this race. As a businesswoman who's successfully operated several businesses in DeKalb County, I know what it takes to run large-scale operations—an essential skill for managing a county of our

size. But it's not just about business; my commitment to justice and community empowerment shines through in my work with seniors, veterans, and families struggling with food insecurity. From leading nonprofits to managing campaigns and running our family business, I've shown that I know how to get things done. I'm ready to hit the ground running from day one to bring real progress to DeKalb County.

If Elected, What Are Your Top Two or Three Priorities?

If elected, my focus will be on public safety, tackling homelessness, and driving economic development—with special attention to animal welfare. Public safety is the backbone of a thriving community, so I plan to boost coordination between law enforcement, emergency services, and local organizations to ensure quicker response times and better visibility of first responders. Homelessness is another growing concern, and I'll push for long-term solutions like affordable housing, mental health support, addiction services, and job training. Animal welfare is also a priority, and I'll work to improve shelter conditions and expand spay-and-neuter programs. My vision includes sustainable infrastructure, clean energy, and enhanced public transportation, all aimed at creating vibrant and resilient neighborhoods.

In Your Opinion, What Is the Role of a County Commissioner?

A county commissioner's job is to listen and then be the voice of the community. We're responsible for enacting ordinances, approving the budget, and handling zoning issues—all while making sure the needs of the people come first. Building solid relationships with fellow commissioners is essential because collaboration is key to achieving our goals. Together, we can make sure DeKalb County continues to grow as an inclusive, thriving place for everyone.

What Is Your Experience in Managing Budgets, and What Is the Largest Budget You Have Personally Managed?

I've got extensive experience managing budgets in both the nonprofit and private sectors. Right now, I oversee an annual budget of \$3 million for various organizations that I own or co-own. My role involves financial planning, accounting, and making sure we comply with all financial regulations. As CEO of Adams Enterprise and co-founder of Restoration International Ministries, I've been hands-on with resource allocation, payroll, and contractor oversight. In my nonprofit work, I've led initiatives that directly support vulnerable populations like seniors and veterans, reinforcing my commitment to transparency and fiscal responsibility. These skills will be essential when managing public funds for DeKalb County.

How Should DeKalb County Address Issues Related to Housing and Affordability?

DeKalb County needs to take a multifaceted approach to housing affordability and diversity. We can expand affordable housing options by incentivizing developers to build and rehabilitate units in underserved areas. Solutions like tiny homes or container homes could also play a role. Public-private partnerships, tax credits, and down-payment assistance programs can help ensure long-

term affordability and boost homeownership. Additionally, we should repurpose vacant buildings for temporary shelters and offer mental health services and job training to help combat homelessness. By collaborating with city governments on zoning policies and resource sharing, we can create a more coordinated and effective approach to solving these housing challenges.

In What Ways Could the County Work to Address the Challenges Faced by the Unhoused Population?

The issues of homelessness and housing affordability are growing in DeKalb County, and I'm committed to both immediate and long-term solutions. I plan to work with Commissioner Robert Patrick on his DASH project, which turns abandoned buildings into temporary shelters and provides housing skills training. Additionally, I'll support partnerships focused on mental health services, job training, and affordable housing to break the cycle of homelessness. By incentivizing developers to build in underserved areas and exploring innovative housing options like tiny homes, we can make progress. Collaboration with city governments to align zoning and share resources will be key to creating a coordinated response to these issues.

What Are Your Thoughts on the Effort to Review and Update the County's Charter?

The Charter Review Commission is essential but shouldn't be a permanent body. I believe in having a structured review process every six to ten years. This will allow us to make necessary reforms without letting politics cloud the process. My focus will be on ensuring that any updates to the charter enhance government responsiveness and transparency, making sure we remain accountable to the people of DeKalb County.

How Would You Like to See the County Spend Its SPLOST Funding?

SPLOST funding should be used to address the specific needs of DeKalb's diverse communities, especially underserved areas like South DeKalb. We should prioritize public safety, infrastructure improvements, animal welfare, and equitable transportation. This means allocating funds to law enforcement and emergency response, improving roads, sidewalks, and public transit, and ensuring fair resource distribution. Animal welfare is another focus area, with SPLOST funds going toward better shelter conditions and expanding spay-and-neuter programs. Transparency and accountability will be crucial, with regular updates and open data portals so residents can track how their tax dollars are being spent.

What Is Your Opinion of Current CEO Mike Thurmond?

Mike Thurmond has been a successful CEO, restoring trust in government, stabilizing finances, and addressing critical issues like water billing and sewer infrastructure. He's made strides in public safety, job creation, and social services, especially through his efforts during the pandemic. That said, I think there's room for improvement in key departments like Planning and Sustainability, Roads and Drainage, Code Enforcement, Animal Control, and Water Billing. Enhancing oversight and improving the organizational structure will help improve service delivery across the county.

What Is Your Opinion About the Current State of the County's Animal Shelter?

DeKalb County's animal shelter needs immediate attention. Overcrowding, resource shortages, and recent outbreaks like canine flu are causing stress for both animals and staff. These challenges have even led to the euthanization of healthy, adoptable dogs due to space constraints. I fully support expanding the shelter and securing temporary space to alleviate overcrowding. It's also crucial to increase staffing, provide better training, and improve compensation for shelter employees. Community-supported programs, foster care expansion, and partnerships with local animal welfare organizations are part of the long-term solutions I'll push for to ensure the shelter remains a humane, supportive environment.

Would You Advance Legislation to Reduce the Number of Dogs Held for Court Cases?

Absolutely. I would work to pass legislation that significantly reduces the number of dogs held for court cases, especially when they're not needed as evidence. Holding these animals for long periods not only adds unnecessary stress but also contributes to overcrowding in our shelters. I'd support policies that expedite processing for non-evidence animals, establish guidelines for early surrender, and promote foster care programs during legal proceedings. These steps would help relieve overcrowding and lead to better outcomes for the animals.

What Are Your Thoughts on Water Billing in DeKalb County?

Water billing has been an ongoing issue for DeKalb residents, with complaints about inaccurate bills and delays in resolving discrepancies. The faulty water meters that were previously used resulted in overcharges, creating financial strain for households. While efforts have been made to replace the meters, there are still unresolved service issues. As commissioner, I would push for a full audit of all outstanding billing discrepancies to ensure fairness. I'd also advocate for improved customer service and the implementation of a more transparent system that makes it easier for residents to track their water usage and resolve any problems.

Would You Support Increasing Pay for Police Officers and Firefighters?

Yes, I strongly support increasing pay for police officers and firefighters to help attract and retain qualified individuals. Public safety is the foundation of a safe community, and offering competitive salaries is essential for keeping top talent in these crucial roles. Better pay, along with improved benefits and resources, would not only help with retention but also boost morale. This would ultimately save the county money by reducing turnover and ensuring consistency in our public safety services.

What Is Your Opinion on the Efforts to Annex Unincorporated Parts of DeKalb County?

Annexations should be handled thoughtfully and with residents' best interests in mind. While I support annexations that create logical boundaries and improve service delivery, they shouldn't be

driven solely by a desire to expand tax bases. Any annexation process should be transparent and include resident participation to ensure the community truly benefits.

Do You Support the Creation of New Cities in DeKalb County?

Before we create new cities, we need to focus on improving the services DeKalb County already provides. By streamlining management, upgrading operations, and enhancing customer service, we can close the gaps in our service delivery. However, if certain communities believe cityhood is their best option, I'll support their right to pursue it—so long as it's done through a transparent and inclusive process.

What Can Be Done to Bolster Economic Development in South DeKalb?

Economic development in South DeKalb requires a collaborative effort and strategic investments. By encouraging transit development, fostering business partnerships, and collaborating with developers, we can attract new jobs to the area. Investments in sustainable infrastructure and green spaces will also help drive long-term growth, making South DeKalb more attractive to both businesses and families.

What Is Your Opinion of the County's Licensing and Permitting Processes?

DeKalb County has faced challenges with delays in issuing business licenses and permits, frustrating local businesses and hindering growth. While recent improvements, like the Camino Development Guide, have helped, there's more work to be done. As commissioner, I would push for further upgrades to our licensing and permitting technology, improving processing times, transparency, and customer service. Modernizing these systems will make DeKalb County more business-friendly and better equipped to support economic development.

If Elected, Will You Conduct Yourself in an Ethical and Transparent Manner?

Yes, I am fully committed to conducting myself with the highest ethical standards and transparency. I believe that accountability is key to building trust with the community, and I'll promote transparency by pushing for the expansion of open data portals. Residents will have access to information about county spending, project progress, and decision-making processes. I'll also advocate for regular audits and reviews of county departments, especially in areas like public safety, water billing, and permitting. My goal is to foster a responsive, transparent government that serves the people of DeKalb County.