



GWINNETT ANIMAL ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

2026 ANIMAL WELFARE CANDIDATE PLEDGE

Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners

By signing this pledge, I commit to using my position on the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners to advance humane, transparent and accountable animal-welfare policies and to ensure that animals entrusted to Gwinnett County receive the care and protection they deserve.

1. Independent Oversight & Community Voice

I will support meaningful citizen and animal-advocate representation and an Animal Advisory Council that can independently ask questions, review information, request records and data, make recommendations, and advise the Board without interference or retaliation.

2. Accountability, Transparency & Protection for Those Who Speak Up

I will hold Animal Welfare leadership and employees to meaningful standards of professionalism, animal care, regulatory compliance and accountability; seek answers and appropriate investigation when credible concerns are raised; follow up on corrective action; and support protections for employees, volunteers, Council members and others who raise legitimate concerns in good faith.

3. Independent Review & Objective Oversight

I will support a comprehensive independent operational audit and/or independent task force to evaluate Gwinnett's animal-welfare system, with measurable recommendations, timelines and public progress reporting. I also support appropriate camera coverage in animal housing, medical and animal-handling areas to protect animals and employees and provide objective evidence when incidents or complaints occur.

4. Stronger Animal Protection Laws & Enforcement

I will support stronger measures addressing irresponsible and backyard breeding; prohibiting retail sales of dogs, cats and rabbits from commercial breeding sources; strengthening inadequate animal-protection ordinances; consistent enforcement of existing laws; and adequate Animal Enforcement staffing and resources. Enforcement should be fair, consistent and focused on improving animal and community welfare.

5. Prevention, Humane Care, Open Intake & Lifesaving

I will support prevention and lifesaving strategies including accessible spay/neuter, expanded TNR and community-cat programs, owner-retention resources, stronger foster/rescue/adoption/reunification partnerships, meaningful enrichment and exercise, intervention for long-stay and at-risk animals, a more accessible volunteer program, timely veterinary care with stronger contractor oversight, and development of permanent in-house veterinary capacity. I will support meaningful euthanasia safeguards and maintaining Gwinnett as an open-intake public shelter, while investing in prevention, partnerships, overflow capacity and infrastructure needed to safely care for animals and reduce unnecessary euthanasia.

6. Public Data, Responsiveness & Budget Accountability

I will support meaningful public reporting of shelter outcomes, euthanasia, length of stay, capacity, medical care, enrichment, volunteer participation, prevention programs and other key measures; substantive review and response to credible concerns and recommendations; and appropriate County funding for programs and resources that improve animal-welfare outcomes. Taxpayer-funded programs should have measurable objectives, publicly reported results and meaningful oversight.

7. Leadership & A Commitment to Act

I recognize animal welfare as a County-government responsibility. I will listen to residents, advocates, volunteers, employees, professionals and advisory bodies; examine evidence and data; ask difficult questions; and follow up when concerns are raised. When evidence shows that a policy, program or practice is failing animals or residents, I will use the authority of the office to pursue meaningful, measurable change — even when that requires challenging the status quo.

CANDIDATE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have reviewed the commitments above and voluntarily commit to the pledges outlined above if elected to the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners.

Candidate Name:

Benjamin Culberson

District: ☐ District 2 ☒ District 4

Signature:



Date:

September 11th, 2026
