

7 FOR '17



RESOLUTIONS TO EFFECT POSITIVE CHANGE IN 2017, FROM GEORGIA'S WIN LIST • WWW.GAWINLIST.COM

1. BE INFORMED

Make it part of your daily routine to check reliable news sources. Consider purchasing a subscription to legitimate news organizations. Real journalism needs subscribers to compete with sometimes more “interesting and readable” but entirely fictional “fake news.” We should all be responsible for the accuracy of what we post and the “facts” on which we base our opinions. Share, and encourage others to share, factual information.

2. BE AN ADVOCATE

Advocacy is making your voice heard to promote the causes you hold dear. Advocacy does not necessarily require special training or even great powers of persuasion. Put your elected representatives at the national, state and local level on speed dial. Make your voice heard on proposed legislation – whether the proposal is something you support or it is something you can't support. Write a letter to say what you think. If you are fortunate enough to have a congressman and state legislators who vote consistently with your values, let them know how much you appreciate them. If your elected representatives take positions contrary to your beliefs, call their offices to make your voice heard.

3. BE A VOLUNTEER

It takes the proverbial village to run a campaign. Women work hard to win elected office and they need a volunteer “village” to knock on doors, make phone calls, address or stamp letters and post cards and drive voters to the polls for early voting and election day. With the miracles of modern technology, a volunteer can place phone calls for a candidate without ever leaving the comfort of home. It is easy, requires no special equipment and the campaign provides you with a script and instructions. Campaigning for someone else is a great way to decide whether you wish to someday run yourself.

4. BE A LEADER

Be the person in your circle of friends who knows what is going on and shares that knowledge with others. Organize a house party to discuss important issues – Georgia's WIN List speakers are be happy to talk to your group. Develop your leadership skills in the WIN Leadership Academy or leadership development programs offered in your community. If you are not yet ready to lead, find a public servant you can help. Most female elected officials have a supportive sisterhood of women who encouraged them to run and helped them WIN office.

5. BE A PUBLIC SERVANT

Not all public service requires running for elected office. If you want to take a step in that direction, consider service on an appointed board or commission at the local, county or regional level. These boards govern a multitude of operations and provide oversight. Names vary from place to place and these board/commission/authority appointments are made by local government officials. Ask for a list of the available positions in your community and then attend a public meeting or two to be sure this is a way you would enjoy serving before asking to be considered for the next vacancy. Service on these boards demonstrates your willingness to serve the community and is a great way to become involved while learning more.

6. BE CONNECTED

Follow your elected officials or groups on social media and sign up to receive their newsletters. Attend community/neighborhood meetings, Georgia's WIN List events, political party meetings and gatherings hosted by progressive groups to connect with others who share your values. Joining others who also want to make a difference empowers the group and new recruits bring hope to progressive causes. Following them on social media and staying connected will lead you to opportunities for action and advocacy. For WIN List, sign up for e-blasts at: www.gawinlist.com. Follow on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gawinlist> or Twitter: @gawinlist.

7. BE A DONOR

Georgia's WIN List, and all progressive groups, depend upon generous donors to fund their efforts. We can't train future leaders and recruit candidates without your support. Georgia's WIN List appreciates gifts in any amount, During 2017, monthly pledges can be made and automatically charged to debit or credit cards. For example, think of donating monthly what you might otherwise spend on one evening out or that “I don't really NEED another white blouse/pair of black shoes” to WIN List instead!