

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, May 24th, 2000

For further information, please call:
Kerrie Dickson, 706-896-7464 (hm); 800-447-6936 (vm)

Dickson Faces Ballot Barriers *with Style, Tenacity and Harmonious Defiance*

"What kind of state," asks Kerrie Dickson, Green Party candidate for the state legislature, House District #8, "creates restrictive ballot access barriers and when a candidate complies by collecting the necessary petition signatures, she is threatened with arrest and persecuted?"

Dickson is seeking election to represent the North East Georgia House District which includes all of Union, Towns and Rabun County, plus the Northwest half of White County. "I'll tell you what kind of state does that, its Georgia."

She will face two opponents in the November 7th General Election who will achieve ballot access by winning their uncontested Primary Elections. Like her Republican and Democratic opponents, Dickson will be expected to pay a \$400.00 qualifying fee. Unlike her opponents, she must also submit a nominating petition. She has been run out of public parks and threatened with arrest for her ballot access efforts, "Not because I'm rude. I'm not. My mother taught me better than that. I'm run off because there is no respect for the First Amendment around here."

Dickson has adopted the motto, "Harmonious Defiance in the Face of Overwhelming Odds" to remind herself of her responsibility to perservere in her efforts to comply with the State Election Code which requires that she collect 1,389 valid signatures from registered voters in her district in order to appear on the ballot.

Georgians for Dickson

706/ 896-7464 (home) * foxfire@whitelion.net
1426 Abe Cove Road; Hiawassee Georgia 30546
Kerrie Dickson for the State House, District #8 in 2000

Dickson is campaigning for decent healthcare, affordable prescriptions and to restore medicaid cuts. Recent cuts have denied vetrans portable oxygen. She wants to repeal the trout stream buffer zone rollback adopted last session in HB-1426 and to restore funding cut during the Miller administration from Georgia's mental health care programs. "It far more cost efficient, not to mention humane," said Dickson, "to provide appropriate community based group homes for our mentally ill citizens. The Miller administration cuts threw these people out on the streets where they frequently wind up filling our jails."

Ms. Dickson is trained as a nurse, worked in a hospital setting for six years, including time in ICU. She has also managed a medical office and has had her own therapy practice. She is very familiar with the threat that HMO's pose to our access to health care and is committed to doing something about it.

Kerrie Dickson co-chairs the Georgia Green Party and has worked at the state legislature on the Party's priority legislative agenda, including on health care issues, juvenile justice sentencing reform and ballot access. As the Party's Development Director, she has toured Georgia, supporting many community environmnetal justice struggles.

She is a mother of five and is expecting her fifth grandchild at the end of June. Her 33 years of work as a community activist should prove a great asset to the people of House District #8. She moved to Hiawassee Georgia five years ago, after raising her children on an organic farm in Oglethorpe County Georgia.

- - 30 - -

Anyone intersted in getting involved in Ms. Dickson's campaign, signing her ballot access petition or helping to curculate it for the necessary signatures, is urged to call her at 706-896-7464 or leave a voice message at 800-447-6936.

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