**POLITICAL SPEECH**

**FOR**

**CLYDE ELROD**

Hello, I want to thank you for taking some time out of your day to find out a little bit of who I am, what I do, the platforms and principles I support and endorse, and how I intend to serve you in Congress. My name is Clyde Elrod and I am running for a seat in the United States House of Representatives in Georgia’s 10th district. The election is in 2020, so we have a good amount of time for you to get to know me, discover my objectives, and learn how I plan to bring a voice and a presence to all.... “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” The clock is ticking, so let’s begin!

While I believe in maintaining and supporting an open, productive dialogue, sometimes life.... and politics... and government call for us to declare an identity... an alliance... a label.... I want you to know that I am running as a Democrat... a **conservative** Democrat. Now you maybe wondering what is a conservative Democrat? That means that socially, I am fairly liberal. It means that I believe that if you want to express yourself and you believe in living your life in what might seem to be more “progressive” ways, I say, go for it. I believe that what a person does in the comfort and privacy of his or her own home.... things that don’t affect or harm others, should not be an issue or cause for government interference.... as long as its legal... It also means that socially, I am fairly conservative. I want to lower taxes, create jobs, and do what I can to legislate in support of small business.

This all might sound kind of, well, non-committal... playing both sides against the middle... it sounds like I might not be “taking a stand”... or “picking a lane.” The truth is, with this declaration, I am saying that I am not far left nor am I far right, I am center on most issues. I believe in conversation. I believe in assessing the whole picture. I believe that in life and in business and in government, there are not just two options from which to choose. I believe that for each principle and mandate, there are many shades of positives and negatives to be discovered and discussed, and the advocacy I will promote will be the result of thoughtful and cautious consideration. Ultimately, underneath all of the characteristics and socio-economic adjectives we use to identify ourselves....beyond the rhetoric and public outcry, and far past the political steamrolling that we’ve all experienced in the past, **we are all the same**.... literally... the physical composition..... our fundamental make up, is pretty much the same, and underneath it all, in our district, most people are the same. We each have our own, unique, basic, requirements, dreams and goals, and those principles are based on our history, our heritage, and our cultural development. I think you would probably agree that we align on common goals... We just want to work, provide for our families, and not have to worry about government regulations insinuating themselves into all or most parts of our lives, affecting our well being and ability to maintain and support hard earned lifestyles... whatever that may look like.

We also rely on the government... at every level, to legislate positively, consider what it is that we require... as individuals... families... communities... and working people.... to improve and maintain supportive infrastructure, to advocate for safe, productive, school environments, and to insure our home district thrives in an atmosphere of spirit, congeniality, productivity, and prosperity.

All of this gives you an idea of what I mean when I use the term, conservative Democrat. As the months go by, and as you get familiar with my platform, my enthusiasm, and my intentions, I will also be getting more familiar... with **you**... with what it will take to serve this district in the most effective, modern, and considerate ways possible. As with all areas of life, nothing is static. Everything shifts... ideas and issues progress... and I intend to progress with the times ... and with the demands of our district. I will be going into more details on each topic in further videos, and I urge you to join in the conversation. It is time that the 10th Congressional District be represented by a person willing to listen, eager to explore all options, and take a stand.... with the goal of representing our communities in order to provide the quality of life we have all worked so hard to discover and maintain.

I am Clyde Elrod. Let’s explore the possibilities together. Thank you.