2020 Congressional Candidacy Announcement

 Georgia 10th. District

 Clyde Elrod

**Clyde, this is a pivotal talk you will be giving. Wait until everyone is settled. Take polite control of the situation. Let them know you are looking forward to answering their questions, but not until you have spoken first. They may interrupt or talk while you talk. Be patient, and don’t allow that to change your pace. Your potential constituents, as well as the media, want a representative who is focused and gently in command. Do not rush, speak as if you were talking to a group of students at a commencement or award ceremony. Make eye contact with everyone as you speak. If there are people who try and interrupt, stop and ask them to allow you to finish, then you will listen to their concerns. I would suggest you invite the sheriff’s office or local police department to send one or two deputies/officers. That way if there is a disturbance, they can mitigate that. Above all else, speak with confidence. To do that you must truly believe what you propose.**

***IN THE 10TH., WE LIVE CLOSE, WE LIVE REMOTE, WE ARE AMERICA***

Good day everyone, good day. Thank you for joining us here for this announcement and platform discussion. I am Clyde Elrod, and I am declaring my candidacy for the United States House of Representatives from the 10th. Congressional District of the great state of Georgia. I am a Democratic candidate, but I intend to be a Congressman for everyone, Republicans, Independents, and those with no affiliation. Our district is as diverse as it gets, from stands of trees to miles and miles of commuting highways. We have vast suburbia surrounded by Mother Nature at her best. We live close, we live remote, we are America. Make no mistake that I am running as a Democrat, but a Democrat with an open mind to every resident of this district. You have heard way too many times that a political hopeful wants to reach across the aisle. To embrace all opinions. To embrace all ideas. To embrace everyone’s goals. And you have seen again way too many

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times, once that person takes office, things are the same-old, same-old. How does that happen with even the best intentions? It happens because we elect folks who are disingenuous, or folks who are swept up in the hardball tactics of the beltway. So many good people go to Washington and then are intimidated by their party leaders, (majority-leader), to be a good soldier and do what ***she*** says, **(laughter),** or he says. Well, I am a good soldier, but a soldier for this district, and not a soldier for ensconced professional politicians to use for their own Capitol Hill aggrandizement. I am Clyde Elrod, and I intend to remain Clyde Elrod. If successful in my bid for office I will not be referred to as committee member Clyde, rather I will be referred to as Clyde, the committee member. This is not a rebellious approach for notoriety. This is an approach to put on notice to the old school members of our government, that there is a new classification of congressperson in town, and that the days of sheep and lemmings are over, at least from Georgia

Yes, I have a platform, I have ideas, and we’ll go over a few of those in a moment. But what you must understand is that I am not, or will not become, a cookie-cutter politician. If you want a talking head, then I am not your person. If you want a puppet for the Democratic party leadership to do their bidding, I am not your person. If you want a yes-man for the sake of approval, I am not your person. We currently have some new faces in Washington DC, and some of them are stirring up the dust to the dismay of old leadership. A few of those are acting in good faith based on their true beliefs. A few of them are also yelling fire in a crowded theater to hear their own voices. And a few are churning up the pot simply from being unprepared, or ill-informed on their subject matter. While the changing of the guard may be flashy and sexy, it should be a professional transition, not a theater of the absurd. My point here is that if successful, I intend to make **waves**, but ***not rock the boat*** *just to interrupt the voyage*.

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So many public servants want to make their constituents believe they, the politician, will solve everything if elected, or re-elected. And every politician has an answer, multiple answers, when questioned. But what constitutes a leader, an effective elected official, is the person who proposes a **solution** to the problem, not just implausible answers. It isn’t a secrete in all categories of life, including politics, you can’t do everything for everyone. To spread ourselves too thin is inviting bland results or even failure. I have my categories of concern, my critical Georgia projects if you will. And if elected they will have my very focused attention, as will those areas that you, the people of Georgia tell me are important. Not altruistic, not utopian wishes, but do-able life changes that are not only plausible, but very possible. That is the congressman who I will be. And if elected, I can assure you that I will not become intoxicated with the power that comes with the office. I will serve at the pleasure of my constituents, and I will serve a limited tenure. My term limits will be self-imposed, and I will not overstay my usefulness.

I could now list a lengthy litany of projects that I think are critical to the nation as well as to Georgia. Instead I am going to tell you an abbreviated list of what I believe is critically essential for us as a state and as a nation. I will touch on them briefly as subject categories, with a short description. Then once we invite questions, you may ask me to delve into any one of them further. My concerns for us, as Americans, and as Georgians are the following.

* The measured use of natural resources such as timber, utilizing timber as an economic commodity, while insuring environmental stability through regrowth.
* Along with this is to redirect agricultural producers to grow usable products, and not produce less than in demand items solely for the purpose of government subsidies. This starts with the Feds, not the recipients of charity. Ag producers should be proud of the tables where their products are enjoyed, and not just receive a check to plow under certain crops.

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* Medical charting system’s programs and immunization’s records programs to be identical nationally for ease of transfer from one state to another.
* Our continued focus on safely utilizing fossil fuels, as we enhance alternative energy sources.
* For visitors to our state and national parks to be good custodians of the wilderness and wildlife therein. And for government to emphasize to all visitors to respect where they walk, and pack out more than they pack in.
* For families, caregivers and kids themselves to better understand safety in cell phone apps. It is one thing to mandate regulation of communication carriers, but without parental guidance those safety measures can be circumvented.
* The need to rethink our wars on illegal drugs. If we lessen the demand, if we reduce the customers, then the supply will dwindle. And that starts with parents, caregivers, and the community with our youth. It also applies to a review of harsh sentences that remain today in many states.
* The incessant clarion for gun restrictions. Guns are here to stay; it is our culture that needs to change. We can not regulate citizens into a corner where criminals who defy regulations will do them harm.
* And of the utmost importance is once again, parents and caregivers understanding the importance of educating young people about their sexual lives. We must emphasize that a good or bad decision will affect the rest of their lives, as well as other’s lives too.
* We need to look at the many ways we can save money at all levels of government. And one of the ways to save money, is by reviewing our currency, pennies, (literally).
* Keeping big-pharma’s feet to the flames regarding price abnormalities. We want drug companies to be profitable, but not excessively to where their products are out of reach, even with co-pays. And an emphasis for them to stop insulting the public with their advertising campaigns showcasing only a small economic segment of consumers, (wealthy retired people on cruises, as opposed to blue collar workers).

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I want you all to know that I work hard at my profession and have worked hard and long to achieve my professional success to date. And I emphasize to all in my inner circle, as well as to those with whom I network, that there is no substitute for a good work ethic. There is no substitute for integrity, honesty, and dependability. And I practice what I preach. (I better because my campaign manager is a man of the cloth), **(Laughter).** If I shake your hand, or if I tell you something will be done, it will be done. And done on time, done correctly, and without excuses for anything less.

As I finish up here, we’ll gladly welcome your questions and/or your requests for where to find my resume.

My staff, well actually me, thought about a hat for us to have embroidered with a catchy saying, as that seems to be the thing to do these days, (similar to the one you all know about). And we also tried to come up with a cute saying for the hat. But, ‘Make Georgia Great Again’, was partially taken. So, in honor of Georgia we tossed around the word ‘**Peach**’. But the only catchy slogan we could come up with related to that word, was ‘**IM-PEACH**’, so we decided not to do the hat, **(laughter).** We’re still working on the hat idea.

Thank you everyone. Please stay for conversation or questions. Please drive carefully when you leave,..and until we meet again,…**Goodbye.**