

## Taylor Cook

I was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and grew up in Geneva, Alabama, a small Wiregrass town rooted in values like hard work, family, and caring for one another. I know all of those tenants very well. But as I entered the real world myself, I witnessed how the Republican Party and MAGA movement dove headfirst into cruelty, hatred, and authoritarian ideology, while still using veils of faith to pander for votes. Simultaneously, I watched as much of the Democratic establishment abandoned working people and capitulated to corporate interests.

That's why I'm running for the Alabama State House of Representatives. Because **we need strong, honest, progressive change that works from the bottom up, not the top down.** If you're one of the many Alabamians struggling to afford your basic needs, feeling left behind, angry about what is happening in Montgomery, or worried about the direction of our state and nation, **I am fighting with and for you.**

I've had a very non-traditional path in life. After high school, I attended Auburn University before transferring to Birmingham to study at Highlands College where I graduated with a certificate in 2019. After graduating, I began working full-time and have done so ever since while also taking classes towards my bachelor's degree. I have worked in auto shops, in warehouses, retail management, a law firm, and general aviation. My entire life has been in the working class, experiencing firsthand how we are all increasingly struggling to afford housing, healthcare, and the basic cost of living all while politicians in Montgomery and Washington get rich and ignore real people.

I am currently finishing my bachelor's degree in Political Science through Colorado State University online while working full-time. I believe Alabama's future depends on electing leaders who actually live in the world their policies create. We need younger, forward-thinking representatives who understand what working families are going through.

As your representative, I'll fight for expanded healthcare and education, fair wages, and a government that's transparent and accountable to the people. My main priorities focus around expanding healthcare access, investing in education, and empowering the working class and unions. But I will also work hard to bolster mental health lifelines, ensure equality for every Alabamian, legalize and regulate marijuana, establish a state lottery,

protect Alabama's natural resources, bolster democracy and accountability in our elections, protect our privacy, eliminate property taxes for personal home owners, and protect renters and homeowners from corporate abuse.

I'm a natural introvert, but I believe good leadership doesn't come from shouting. I believe it comes from listening, being honest and authentic, and doing what's right even when it's hard. My goal is to be the most open and accessible member of the Alabama State House and someone who always puts people before politics.

My wife Savannah and I live in District 43 with our two dachshunds, Ginger and Leisl. When I'm not working or studying, I love spending time outdoors, particularly at Oak Mountain State Park which holds a special place in my heart. Some other interesting things about me are that I have a little over 38 flight hours in a Cessna 172, I've been on a commercial flight that lost an engine, I've run three half-marathons (that makes a full marathon and a half right?), climbed to 17,300+ feet on Mount Kilimanjaro (quite a story this one), and completed a Death by 5K ultramarathon right here at Oak Mountain (I'm exhausted just remembering it).

I'm running because I believe Alabama deserves better. It's time for new leadership in our state. Leadership that listens, tells the truth, is accessible, and fights for every day Alabamians.