**HOUSE DISTRICT 138**

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| **GEOGRAPHIC AREA** | |
| **Counties** | Chattahoochee, Marion, Schley, Sumter |
| **Metro Area/Region** | Americus Area, Columbus Area |
| **Cities/Towns/Areas** | Americus, Andersonville, Buena Vista, Ellaville, Plains |

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| **DEMOGRAPHIC DATA** | | |
| **Population** | 53,668 | |
| **Median Household Income** | $36,700 | |
| **Education** | **Completed HS** 55.0% | **Completed College/Beyond** 23.9% |
| **Race** | **White** 49.8% | **Black** 39.5% |
|  | **Hispanic** 7.0% | **Asian** 1.6% |

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| **POLITICAL AREA** | |
| **Congressional District(s)** | GA-2 |
| **Senate District(s)** | SD-12, SD-13, SD-15 |
| **Incumbent Name (R or D)** | Bill McGowan (D) is retiring |
| **2018 Democratic Candidate** | Bardin Hooks (D) |
| **Campaign Website** | <https://www.hooksforhouse.com/> |
| **FB Page** | <https://www.facebook.com/hooksforhouse/> |
| **Twitter** | [@HooksforHouse](https://twitter.com/HooksForHouse) |
| **2018 Republican Candidate** | Herschel Smith |
| **Campaign Website** | N/A |
| **FB Page** | N/A |
| **Twitter** | N/A |
| **2018 Republican Candidate** | Mike Cheokas |
| **Campaign Website** | N/A |
| **FB Page** | https://www.facebook.com/mikecheokas/ |
| **Twitter** | N/A |

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| **PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS** | | |
| 2016 Clinton - 44.79% | Trump - 53.44% | 2016 Margin - R+8.7% |
| 2012 Obama - 49.61% | Romney - 49.57% | 2012 Margin - D+0% |

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| **2016 HD 138 ELECTION RESULTS** | | |
| Mike Cheokas (i) | 49.18% | 7,661 |
| Bill McGowan | 50.82% | 7,917 |

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| **2014 HD 138 ELECTION RESULTS** | | |
| Mike Cheokas (i) | 52.3% | 5,771 |
| Kevin Brown | 47.7% | 5,253 |

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| **2012 HD 138 ELECTION RESULTS** | | |
| Mike Cheokas (i) | 50.7% | 8,101 |
| Kevin T. Brown | 49.3% | 7,893 |

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| **FOLLOW THE MONEY** |
| Bill McGowan raised $22,084 to defeat the Republican incumbent Mike Cheokas. Cheokas was a 7 term incumbent who raised $219,027 during the 2016 campaign. |

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| **NOTES AND SUMMARY** |
| This district has long been considered a swing district. The GA House representative for this district from 2004 to 2016 was Mike Cheokas (R), who switched from the Democratic to the Republican party Cheokas had a Democratic opponent in 2012 and 2014, but won narrow victories of 51% and 52% respectively. In 2016, Cheokas was opposed by Bill McGowan (D), and lost with 49% of the vote to McGowan's 51%. Shortly thereafter, Cheokas was appointed to the GA School Board by Gov. Deal.  McGowan is a former mayor of Americus, a grandfather, Vietnam Vet, Baptist, and Kiwanis/ Shriner/Mason/American Legion/VFW member. He ran on a platform of supporting education and economic development in the area. A key factor in McGowan's victory was his opposition to Gov. Deal's failed Opportunity School Districts Amendment that would have allowed temporary state takeover of failing schools. Cheokas' supported the Amendment. This was unpopular with voters across the state. McGowan characterized it as a "hostile takeover" of local schools.  McGowan has announced he will not run in 2018. He has endorsed Democratic candidate **Bardin Hooks**. Hooks is an attorney in Americus with deep roots in the area (his family has lived in Americus for seven generations). Before entering private practice Hooks served as assistant attorney general in Georgia.  In late February, Republican **Herschel Smith** **(R)** announced he would be running for this seat. He’s a retired Navy officer and airline pilot and identifies as being the sixth generation of military veterans in his family.  Republican and former representative of this district **Mike Cheokas (R)** is also running. Since losing to McGowan in 2016, he has been serving on Georgia’s School Board. |

**MAPS**

[**https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/dc10map/SLD\_RefMap/lower/st13\_ga/sldl13138/DC10SLDL13138\_001.pdf**](https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/dc10map/SLD_RefMap/lower/st13_ga/sldl13138/DC10SLDL13138_001.pdf)