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Daughter of Newt Gingrich Discusses Campaign

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[Chris Shaw](#)

By CHRIS SHAW/myfoxatlanta

ATLANTA - Taking time off from the campaign trail, one of Newt Gingrich's daughters sat down for a candid conversation with FOX 5's Chris Shaw.

With her own children along for the ride , it's not unusual to find Jackie Gingrich Cushman on the campaign trail these days.

Going back to her father's first campaign, when she was just 7 years old and the family was living in Carrollton, it's a place where she's learned how cruel political attacks can be.

"In his first two campaigns he lost. And even in those campaigns, I heard a lot of things that I knew were not true," Gingrich Cushman said. "So I've kind of grown up in this environment where I've filtered things that I hear. I made sure I understand what the truth is, and we've done a good job with our children and our family to say, if you have any questions come to us and we'll tell you the truth."

Six days ago, Gingrich, along with her sister Kathy, did countless interviews sticking up for her father amid allegations from her former stepmother, Marianne Gingrich, who claimed Newt Gingrich once asked for an open marriage so he could continue a long-term affair.

"Well it's never comfortable to go out and talk about personal things. But the truth is, he's been up front about it," Jackie said.

She says that honesty is allowing voters to look past her father's many past indiscretions. She said he wasn't surprised that women in South Carolina showed support for her father.

"I think it shouldn't be surprising because if you look at the economic downturn, women have a large brunt of that, not only working women, but women that are home makers that are mothers. They understood how it works. And in the end, they're also the ones that have to figure out how to make the ends meet," she said.

Jackie deflected criticism from Mitt Romney about Newt Gingrich's leadership ability.

"He actually got a Republican Congress elected. He then, once he was there in the first 100 days, actually voted on everything that was in the Contract with America. Then he went on to balance the budget for four years, reform welfare, cut spending, cut taxes. Now I don't understand what part of that is a failure, because we haven't had a balanced budget since," she said.