

NAME: J. Mark Butler
PARTY: Republican
SEEKING: Commissioner of Labor



Why are you seeking your office?

Serving the people of Georgia as their Labor Commissioner has truly been the most rewarding job of my life. I want to continue putting Georgians back to work by using innovative programs and partnerships. We have rebuild relationships with the business community, technical colleges, nonprofits, and economic developers. For the last two years Georgia has been in the top ten in job growth. Approximately 300 thousand jobs have been created since January 2011.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

For the last for years we have made the Dept. of Labor much more efficient through technology and better use of personal. Today the Dept is 31% smaller and doing a better job putting people back to work. Our goal is to continue to build on these successes and make the Georgia Department of Labor the best in the country. We will continue to partner to put Georgians back to work and prepare our young people with programs like GABest.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

Experience and philosophy. I have four years of successful experience as labor commissioner building relationships and bring innovation to State government. Before that I had 20 years experience in the private sector running a successful small business. Through my experience, I understand that the Labor Dept can not be successful by adding red tape and putting forth anti business policies. I believe in a common sense approach of fixing our workforce problems not using government to create problems.

What are the key issues in your race?

Economic development, connecting job seekers to jobs, and keeping a business friendly environment so Georgia's existing businesses can continue to grow.

Pick one issue. Expand on how you will address it.

The most important role of the Department of Labor is connecting job seekers to employers. I the last few years we have developed innovative programs like our Workforce Assistance Team and Customized Recruitment. Our next project will be an overhaul of our online job search system called Employ Georgia. Not only will it better showcase the current 30 thousand job opportunities listed with the dept but it will also include the

thousands of jobs listed on other job sites. Job seekers will also be able to post their resumes online for Georgia businesses to see.

Give a 100 word summary of your background.

I am from Carrollton, Ga. where my family ran a successful small business. I graduated from Auburn University with a degree in public administration. After college I went to work in the family business for the next 20 years. At the family business I did the books, was the HR director, IT manager and helped earn the income to pay our employees. I served 8 years in the General Assembly. I am married to Chantell Butler and we have three children and attend church in Carrollton.