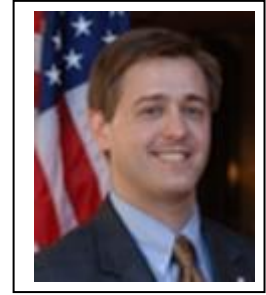


# 2010 candidate questionnaire

NAME: **Mark Butler**

PARTY: Republican

SEEKING: Labor Commissioner



## 1. Why are you seeking your office?

My 8 years in the State House of Representatives has shown me that Georgia needs strong, conservative leadership. I've worked hard to fulfill the vision of small government, fiscal responsibility and to bring new ideas that promote reform. I worked with the Department of Labor on legislation that has helped Georgia's businesses and citizens. In a leadership role on the Appropriations Committee, I helped craft the budget for the Department. These experiences showed me the interworkings of the department and gave me a desire to make it better.

## 2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

Georgia needs to develop a blueprint in which our education systems, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Economic Development work together to develop an educated workforce for Georgia's future. As Labor Commissioner, I will seek to bring these agencies together with our stakeholders in the business community to create a strategic plan to build a workforce to be competitive with any in the world. I will also continue to work with the Georgia General Assembly to encourage them to keep taxes lower on our small businesses because they are the backbone of our state's economy.

## 3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

My experience in leadership roles and my ability to get the job done. I have also worked successfully to reform some the largest parts of State government. My work, along with many others, lead to the reform of the states human services agencies with the Human Resources Task Force. This task force, which I co chaired, created a new foundation that will streamline government and save tax dollars. As a business owner over the past 18 years I understand the value of hard work and results. I believe this experience makes me uniquely qualified for the position of Labor Commissioner.

## 4. What are the key issues in your race?

Workforce development and job training to help put Georgians back to work. I will be actively involved in working with the DOE, The Technical College System of Georgia and the Board of Regents to ensure that the private sector has a voice in the development of innovative programs to teach and train our future workforce. Protecting the taxes payer's money by keeping the Department of Labor running efficiently and making sure only person's who are truly looking for work are getting benefits. That means no undocumented workers and I will work to get drug testing for person's on unemployment.

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

Workforce development. We need to improve our ability to identify individuals who can benefit from re-training opportunities. Flexibility of the workforce is one of the most critical factors in being prepared for new and emerging industries. The key to successful job creation is the ability of the workforce to have skills that are transferable between industries. Many textile workers who lost their jobs have skills that can be advanced or slightly retooled to fit with different industries. However, there has not been a significant focus to identify those skill sets and determine how they can be transferred across industry lines.

**6. Give a 100 word summary of your background.**

I have served eight years in the General Assembly in leadership positions and have helped run a small business as a real estate appraiser for 18 years. I graduated from Auburn University with a degree in Public Administration. I am a member of Kiwanis Club and the Carroll and Haralson County Chambers of Commerce. I have two children, Sydney (13) and Blake (26), who recently served in the U.S. Army with the 101st Division. The Butler family attends Tabernacle Baptist Church in Carrollton.