

# 2010 candidate questionnaire

NAME: **Darryl Hicks**

PARTY: Democrat

SEEKING: Labor Commissioner



**1. Why are you seeking your office?**

To put Georgia back to work. To get the feeling back we once had, with things we thought we could count on—a good paying job after we finished our education, jobs that paid real wages to raise a family and to have a sense of dignity.

I'm running because I think the Department of Labor ought to be more than a place to pick up an unemployment check. I think the Labor Department ought to be a place to pick yourself up. I think the Labor Department ought to be more about re-employment than unemployment.

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

Reduce our unemployment rate and provide new hope for those who want and need a job. Georgians all over the state face the prospect of unemployment, and handling the financial issues attendant to job loss. As Labor Commissioner, I propose drastically rethinking how the labor department assists people with not just unemployment assistance but with reemployment efforts. Again, I think the Labor Department ought to be more about re-employment than unemployment.

**3. What distinguishes your candidacy?**

My experience as a business owner, two decades as an executive manager with Atlanta Gas Light's parent company and helping balance three consecutive Fulton County budgets, without raising taxes, gives me a unique perspective on how to strengthen local economies and develop jobs.

I have the skill to bring new jobs because I know what it takes to lure new businesses, including having solidly trained workers for the jobs the new businesses bring, and making sure are schools are strong so we produce a smarter workforce. I have the resume we need to put Georgia back to work.

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

- **JOBS** (Reducing unemployment.) Putting people back to work is the sure fire cure to unemployment.
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.** We have to bring new businesses to Georgia.
- **EDUCATION** (Improving schools and education—a "smart" workforce.) If we don't have a

workforce that is skilled, trained and ready to compete, we won't attract any businesses to the state.

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

We have to work to improve our schools, our students' access to good schools and higher education. Education equals jobs. The better educated our workforce, the better the jobs will be that we lure here.

I think some of our workforce development initiatives are going to have to reach our students, not just in colleges and universities and technical schools, but I think we are going to have to reach our students in secondary schools as well. As Labor Commissioner, I want to begin instilling work habits and work ethics—and some work hours—in our students.

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

Darryl A. Hicks, 46, was born raised in the middle Georgia town of Reynolds, by a single mom. He graduated from Morris Brown College and also earned an MBA from Georgia State University in executive management. Hicks spent more than 20 years with AGL Resources before becoming the top-appointed officer for the Fulton County Chairman's Office.

In addition to his professional attributes, Hicks has been dedicated to community service, serving on a host of boards for nonprofit organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters and Habitat for Humanity. He, his wife and three children live in Fayetteville.