NAME: Mark Butler PARTY: Republican

**SEEKING: Labor Commissioner** 

# Why are you seeking your office?

I have a passion for good government and workforce development. Helping businesses grow and people find good jobs is some of the most rewarding work that I have ever done. I want to continue to help Georgia and our communities prosper by bringing innovation to government.

# What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

We will continue to expand our, first of its kind, soft skills program "GeorgiaBEST" to K-12, businesses and nonprofits. We will also continue to upgrade GDOL's technology for even better customer service with more online services.

# What distinguishes your candidacy?

Experience and proven leadership. I'm the only candidate with both public and private experience. I have not only written budgets, but have also implemented them. I have been on both the legislative and executive sides of state government. Most importantly, my team is very diverse and has been able overcome a lot of challenges from federal budget cuts to high unemployment to bring the GDOL to where it is today.

## How can we improve school safety?

Better mental heath support for our students. More guards and metal detectors only help with the symptom, we have to go after the cause. Most of the issues with school violence are connected to mental health issues.

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

Helping the underemployed. This is an issue that we are already working on by help individuals move into better jobs. In this tight labor market, we have changed how we bring workers and businesses together. We have recruiting events at untraditional times, such as weekends or after 5, to attract workers out of lower paying jobs into higher paying ones. We also work with our technical colleges to help increase the skill sets of our customers.

## Please give a 100 word summary on your background

I am a native of Georgia and currently live in Carrollton. Graduated with a degree in public administration from Auburn University. I worked for over 20 years in our family's small

# 2018 GwinnettForum Candidate Questionnaire

businesses before running successfully for State Representative and then Labor Commissioner.