NAME: Richard Keatley
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Georgia Labor Commissioner

Why are you seeking office?

I am running for Commissioner of Labor to make sure that we as a state are investing in the people of Georgia. That means expanding and revitalizing our career centers, serving our veterans and working families, supporting infrastructure development, and ensuring fairness and opportunity.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

As the full-time voice of labor, I will fight for investments that improve the quality of lives of working families and increase productivity, such as affordable housing, transportation and communication infrastructure. I will work to create a more inclusive workplace in Georgia, fighting against discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, pregnancy, age, sexual orientation and gender identity and will appoint boards and advisory councils that are inclusive and representative of the diversity of our state. I also believe we need to be pro-active in ensuring all workers are paid what they deserve and will fight (100)

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I grew up in a working class family with a labor background. This experience makes me uniquely qualified to understand what Georgia's workforce needs to be successful.

What are the key issues in your race?

Workplace discrimination, career centers, support for veterans, wage theft, misclassification, education, and infrastructure development.

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

Education: I know that a well-educated workforce is the strongest motor of economic growth. That's why investing in the people of Georgia will by my first priority as Commissioner of Labor. I want to expand and revitalize our career centers, serve our veterans and working families, and provide opportunities for continued education at all phases of workers' lives. I am particularly passionate about the need to make educational opportunities and jobs training an integral part of our prisons, an approach that has been shown to decrease recidivism and save money in the long-run.

Please give a 100 word summary on your background.

I was raised in Akron, Ohio in a strong union household. I attended Virginia Tech on a Naval ROTC scholarship, where I was a proud member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, majoring with a B.S. in Nuclear Science. In 1987, I joined the U.S. Navy, serving as a Surface Warfare Officer aboard the U.S.S. Donald B. Beary and as Cargo Officer for the Military Sealift Command in Italy. After the Navy I pursued my passion for learning, earning Masters degrees and a PhD at Yale University. I taught at Georgia State University for fifteen years, where I was (100)