

2020 GwinnettForum candidate questionnaire

NAME: Matt Lieberman
PARTY: Libertarian
SEEKING: U.S. Senate (Isakson seat)

1. Why are you seeking your office?

I'm running for US Senate AS a fed up citizen of Georgia and FOR the fed up citizens of Georgia. At the most basic level, Kelly Loeffler does not represent most of us on the issues that most of us care most about: healthcare, common sense gun reform, voting rights, improving public education, fighting climate change, and the list goes on. We deserve a senator who truly represents and will fight for our priorities and our values. That's why I'm running.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

If my fellow Georgians honor me with their votes, I promise to be a part of the solution and not a part of the problem. What do I mean? Right now there is a pandemic of gutlessness in Washington. It crosses party lines, and it kills the prospect for real progress. We need a senator with the courage to compromise, the courage to find common ground. America's challenges are not partisan, and neither can its solutions be. The party bosses want everyone to stay in their respective corners. But that doesn't help anyone except the party bosses.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

While I grew up in politics, I'm not a professional politician. I'm a lawyer by training, but the first half of my career I spent in education as a teacher and principal. Since then I've started a small business. And I've been the primary or solo parent for my two beautiful daughters. In other words, I've been dealing with the day in, day out challenges that most of us deal with. At the same time, I will absolutely know how to hit the ground running in Washington and stay focused on the task at hand.

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

We need higher quality education to close the income gap we see in Georgia, which especially affects communities of color. There's a lot of rhetoric on this issue, but few solutions. Here are some solutions I support: (1) Wide open public school choice; (2) Increased federal funding for low income students in the form of tax credits to parents; (3) Increased funding to schools in low income areas; (4) free tuition for community colleges; (5) refinancing student debt at low interest rates.

5. Suggest ways to jump-start the economy after COVID-19.

What we do now, during Covid 19, will have the greatest impact on how we economically recover. You can't find a serious economist who says anything other than how important it is for the federal government to continue investing in economic lifelines to individuals and businesses. Why? Because we need our fellow Americans and American businesses not just physically alive but economically alive and functioning to drive our economic recovery. Yes, the amount we are spending is historic and under ordinary circumstances would be unacceptable. But we are living through an extraordinary event that calls for an extraordinary response.

6. Please give a 100 word summary on your background

Matt graduated from Yale and got his J.D. from Yale Law School. While in law school Matt developed an innovative program to help fight hunger and homelessness. After graduating, Matt helped launch a local "I Have a Dream" program to provide college scholarships to low-income kids. After two years of practicing law, Matt became a school teacher and administrator. Over a decade ago, Matt started a Georgia business to provide health care to families, small businesses, and union members. A single dad, Matt's two daughters, Tess and Willie, have been the daily stars of his life.