

NAME: Matthew Wilson
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Insurance Commission

1. Why are you seeking your office?

I'm running to return the office to the people. The Insurance Commissioner should be the chief consumer advocate of our state, holding the big insurance companies accountable and using his regulatory and licensing authority to end discriminatory pricing. The Commissioner should also be the biggest advocate for efforts to fully expand Medicaid so every Georgian has the health care they need. We need to do all that we can to increase access to care, which is why I've introduced legislation creating the first-ever plan to guarantee every Georgian health care through a state insurance public option.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

My number one priority will be to use my legislative experience and influence to pass full Medicaid expansion. Georgia has the third highest population without health insurance, leaving millions of Georgians with no safety net and costing all of us more. It has also created a rural hospital crisis and given Georgia the second highest maternal mortality rate in the country. Unlike the previous four commissioners, I believe the Commissioner has a duty to ensure every Georgian has access to quality health insurance, and it will be my chief priority for the 2023 legislative session.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I am the only Democratic candidate who has ever served in state government and the only candidate who would refuse to settle for any partial Medicaid expansion waiver program like Gov. Kemp's plan that I opposed in 2019. Both of my Democratic opponents have spent careers in the insurance industry. We have seen historic levels of corruption the past 25 years from industry insiders elected commissioner, so my career as a trial lawyer—suing insurance companies who fail to deliver on their promises—is a clear contrast, showing my track record as a consumer advocate without conflicts of interest after...(100).

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

I will prioritize lowering insurance premiums for all Georgians. The Commissioner has broad regulatory authority to audit all private insurance companies in Georgia. Under a people-centered administration, this can be used to weed-out discriminatory practices in premium-setting and ensure increases are actually justified. But for the past 25 years, commissioners have let the big insurance companies run relatively unchecked, and Georgians experience some of the highest annual premium increases as a result. It is

unjustifiable that these companies have been left unregulated, and I will use the office's regulatory authority to ensure Georgians are being charged fair rates.

5. What are your ideas on curbing all the many area-wide shooting?

We need leaders who will actually listen to experts on the issues rather than play to the base in order to win their primary elections. I've sponsored legislation to give law enforcement officials what they have specifically asked us for—more tools to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. Unfortunately, our governor is attempting to win his re-election primary by removing one of the few checks we had to ensure guns were in safe hands. This is personal for me—my father and twin sister are in law enforcement. I will not stop advocating for solutions to...(100).

6. Please give a 100 word summary on your background

Born to a working-class family in Griffin, my father, a mechanic, was disabled on the job when I was in kindergarden. My mom worked nights to help us make ends meet, but we survived because of Social Security and Georgia Workers' Compensation fund. Thanks to that support, I attended UGA on scholarship and taught sixth grade before returning to UGA for law school. I live in Brookhaven with my husband, Robert, where I run my own personal injury law practice. For the past four years, I have been honored to represent my neighbors in the Georgia State House.