



2020 Georgia Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Allen Buckley

*Background Information*

**Education:** B.A., Kent State University; J.D., University of Georgia; LL.M. in Taxation, University of Florida

**Where is home?** Smyrna, Georgia

**Do you currently hold a public office? No If so, how long have you held your current office?** NA

**Past public offices held:** None

**Additional background information you'd like to share:** I'm an attorney/CPA who is passionate about solving the nation's many significant problems. On my campaign website ([buckleyforsenate.org](http://buckleyforsenate.org)), I (unlike my opponents) propose solutions to the major problems. I'm running as an independent candidate. Unlike the major party candidates, I am free, and will remain free, of special interest groups. Thus, I can potentially get things done to reduce health care costs, etc. I have come up with a tax system that I think is much better than the current system. It is summarized on the website.

*Georgia in General*

**Briefly share your qualifications for the office.**

Please see the immediately preceding information. As noted on my website, unlike my opponents, I offer actual solutions to problems, including the nation's financial problems.



***Please indicate the reasons you are seeking election and your priorities, overarching policy interests, and any solutions for district-specific challenges.***

As things stand now, I think the nation's debts are going to spiral out of control within the next 10-20 years, destroying the nation. (If that happens, the stock markets will collapse.) In this regard, in 2007, when total national debt was less than \$9 trillion, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) said it foresaw our nation's debts spiraling out of control. Now, total debt is roughly \$27 trillion, and the two major parties are doing nothing about the problem except making it worse. In 2011, when the debt was \$15 trillion, Admiral Mike Mullen, head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called the national debt our nation's greatest national security threat. Once the pandemic passes and the economy has made a substantial recovery, we need to balance the budget and run small annual surpluses every year the U.S. is not experiencing a recession (or worse), In this regard, as noted on my website, a much worse pandemic is expected by a well-respected expert within the next ten years.

### *Farm Bill*

***With commodity prices still hovering at historically low levels and so much uncertainty in the agriculture industry, the farm bill - and the safety net it provides - is as vital as it has ever been for Georgia farmers. While the current farm bill runs through 2023, what do you see as the biggest priorities for Georgia in the next reauthorization? Are there specific programs or policies that you believe should be improved?***

I like farmers and the concept of farming in general. I'm not a farming expert. If elected, I would meet with farmers to discuss their needs. While I'm generally in favor of reasonably reducing spending (for the reasons set forth above), the farm bill costs are not a major cost of the federal government. I am fine with the concept of reasonable insurance, but have always had a problem with subsidization of a handful of crops. However, I understand that things need to be done to counteract EU subsidies.

### *Trade*



***It is no secret that farmers have been negatively impacted by the recent trade disputes with many of our closest trading partners, though trade mitigation efforts like the Market Facilitation Program have helped many weather the tough times. With the finalization of several new trade deals, many Georgia farmers are breathing a sigh of relief. However, the deals must be enforced and our trading partners must be held accountable for the promises they've made. How do you plan to play a role going forward in ensuring that countries like China and Japan follow through with their free trade and agricultural purchases commitments?***

First, I would meet with them behind closed doors, noting the problem and demanding action to remedy it. I would state that negative repercussions could be expected if they did not meet their commitments. If that did not work, I would make public their failures to meet their commitments, and note a range of possible sanctions that would be forthcoming absent immediate remedying action. If the problem was not eliminated, I would take the one or more of the threatened actions. The threatened actions would likely be trade-related. Of course, as a senator, I would need to work with others to accomplish such results.

***The USMCA agreement was welcome news for many Georgia farmers. However, as you know, certain Georgia growers remain concerned about the lack of an enforceable remedy in the deal for seasonal and perishable products in antidumping and countervailing duty proceedings. We know that the Georgia congressional delegation worked very hard to extract a commitment from the Trump Administration to address the issue, and we are grateful for those efforts. But work remains on this issue. What is your goal moving forward to deal with the dumping of fresh fruits and vegetables during Georgia growing seasons?***

The USMCA authorizes amendments to the agricultural provisions. If a problem exists, the Committee on Agricultural Trade (composed of representatives of each country) can act to address the problem. Selling below market with foreign government subsidies (i.e. dumping) should not be permitted. The U.S. should act consistently, and not dump. (Selling in the U.S. for less than in the home country—without foreign country subsidies, should also be prohibited.) If elected and a problem exists, hopefully along with others, I would attempt to work through the USMCA to prevent dumping.



## *Ag Labor*

***Agriculture jobs are difficult and undesired by many. The working conditions and seasonality of the jobs are not what most Georgians prefer, and agriculture relies heavily on a reliable migrant labor workforce, such as H-2A. How do you intend to balance the enforcement of immigration laws while helping provide access to the workers agriculture needs?***

It is unfortunate that Americans aren't willing to perform a number of farming jobs. Thus, migrant visas are necessary. I believe in enforcing the immigration laws. However, they have been essentially "cast in stone" for decades. I believe we need to let in some more people annually (and annually have the numbers grow with population growth—like inflation), and allowing a path to citizenship for foreign students to attend college in the U.S., excel, and want to become U.S. citizens. "Chain" migration needs to be reasonably reduced. My thoughts on immigration are provided at [buckleyforsenate.org](http://buckleyforsenate.org).

Finally, I know that the answers above aren't as desirable as the ones you'll receive from some other candidates. But, I'm being honest. And, we really need to address our nation's daunting financial and health care problems. I'm the only candidate in the race who'll do so. Please consider these factors. Thank you.