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I've worked in Republican politics the better part of my adult career from local races to presidential campaigns, both paid and as a volunteer.

However, the race to be Georgia's next governor is so important it has caused me to break with my party and support Roy Barnes.

I do so with certainty and confidence that Roy Barnes is the best person for the job to get Georgia's economy back on track so that we have a strong climate for job growth and an opportunity for prosperity for all Georgians.

Nathan Deal, the Republican candidate in this race has too many ethical shortfalls to be able to focus full time on being our governor. He resigned in the still of the night to avoid a full investigation by the House Ethics Committee.

Continued evidence of his repeated abuse of his congressional office for personal gain shortchange an opportunity for all Georgians when someone is so willing to blatantly put their own agenda ahead of the public good.

With unprecedented challenges facing our state, we need a governor without potential legal and financial distractions.

Barnes did not have to run for governor. He had a good life in a successful private legal practice, but, like so many he didn't like the direction that Georgia is heading.

With record unemployment and mismatched priorities, our state is heading in the wrong direction and it needs a governor who can and will make the tough decisions necessary to grow our economy to encourage job creation and address the challenges of transportation, taxes, and education with honesty and transparency.

Some in my party are determined to scare voters into believing that Barnes is a Barack Obama clone. That couldn't be further from the truth.


In fact, in 2002, in a CATO Institute report on the nation's governors, Roy Barnes was ranked among the nation's best governors along, with Florida's Jeb Bush and Colorado's Bill Owens.


He pushed through a Taxpayers Bill of Rights that saved homeowners \$350 million and cut unemployment insurance taxes saving businesses \$1 billion. Under Barnes' leadership, Georgia grew over 235,000 jobs.

He did it before and he'll do it again. Barnes has outlined a plan to put Georgians back to work, address our state's long-term water needs and has even proposed a bold plan for the creation of an independent, non-partisan commission for reapportionment.

I hope that voters will put what is best for Georgia first and foremost and cast a vote for Roy Barnes for Governor.

Clint Murphy is a Republican activist in Savannah who most recently served in 2008 as the deputy director in the Southeast for GOP presidential nominee John McCain's campaign.

 [Democrat gubernatorial candidate former Gov. Roy Barnes discusses education policy to members of the Georgia School Boards Association during their summer conference in Savannah. \(John Carrington/Savannah Morning News\)](#) [1]

 [Clint Murphy, fourth district city council candidate](#) [2]

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