

Candidate for Commissioner of Labor

Jason Reese

Party: Republican

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Vocation: Labor and Employment Attorney

Question #1: List your academic and professional credentials, specific accomplishments and volunteer activities. State why you are running and what qualifies you for this office. (100 words total)

I graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelors Degree and a Juris Doctorate. After serving as Administrative Rules Counsel at the Oklahoma House of Representatives, I went into private practice, representing Oklahoma businesses in a wide array of labor and employment issues. I am running for Labor Commissioner because I believe that I have the expertise necessary to fulfill the mission of the Labor Department, that is providing justice to workers and businesses alike. I have been active in my church and community through the Knights of Columbus, Downtown Club and Ducks Unlimited.

Question #2: What do you see as the most important issues facing your office and staff? (200 words or less)

The single most important issue facing the Labor Department is how to provide a workplace in Oklahoma that is just in its dealings with employees and employers. Specifically, my top priority is to ensure that Reserve and Guard members, those people who do the most to defend our way of life, are not discriminated against in Oklahoma's workforce. Many Reserve and Guard members have told me that they and their compatriots find it hard to find work (some after returning from tours in Iraq and Afghanistan) because some employers are afraid that they may be deployed in the future. This cannot stand. When we go to war as a country, we go as one people – not solely the soldiers, sailors and marines. Our businesses must do their part too and I believe the vast majority of businesses are eager to do their part. With a simple addition to our non-discrimination laws that already cover race, sex, religion, etc. we can support our Reserve and Guard members without letting unscrupulous employers gain an advantage over those businesses doing the right thing. I pledge to end this for of discrimination in Oklahoma.