



BÁRBARA RIVERA HOLMES

COMMISSIONER

Georgia Department of Labor

Commissioner Bárbara Rivera Holmes was appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp and sworn in as the 11th Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) on April 4, 2025, becoming Georgia's first Latina constitutional officer. She leads the agency at a critical time for the state's workforce and economy.

Since taking office, Commissioner Holmes has released GDOL's bold new strategic plan — a comprehensive blueprint for transformation grounded in innovation, operational excellence, and elevated public service. The plan reimagines how the department functions, with a clear mission to rebuild trust, modernize systems, and lead with purpose — all in service of a stronger, more resilient Georgia economy.

Under her leadership, GDOL is working closely with state leaders, employers, and communities to build the Top State for Talent. The department plays a critical role in Georgia's economic vitality by delivering essential services such as unemployment insurance, job placement, labor market data, and workforce development programs. These services support both individuals and businesses, ensuring that Georgia's labor market remains robust, competitive, and aligned with the needs of a dynamic economy.



Holmes brings to the role a deep background in economic development, public policy, talent cultivation, and small business advocacy. She has served on the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, appointed by former Gov. Nathan Deal, and on the Georgia Rural Development Council, appointed by Gov. Kemp. She also co-chaired the Georgia Innovates Task Force, which helped shape the state's technology blueprint.

Her contributions have earned her a Congressional Commendation and multiple honors from the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Georgia Trend. Immediately prior to becoming Labor Commissioner, Holmes was president & CEO of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce, one of Georgia's largest and most dynamic business advocacy organizations. In previous roles, Holmes brought jobs to rural Georgia as an economic developer and was an award-winning journalist recognized by the Georgia Associated Press.

She holds degrees in journalism and Spanish from Florida Southern College and studied at Estudio Sampere Internacional in Spain. A native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, Commissioner Holmes resides in Albany with her husband, David, and their daughter.

