

Below is the unedited questionnaire response of:

**Keisha Lance Bottoms**  
Mayoral Candidate

**1. Describe briefly your qualifications for this office. In addition, please identify up to 5 organizations who are actively supporting your candidacy and why you believe their support is important.**

My decades long commitment to professional and personal public service and leadership qualifies me to serve as Mayor of Atlanta. In addition to previously having served as Executive Director of the City of

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Attorney for indigent, corporate and private clients, I have served on the Atlanta City Council for nearly eight years and have proven myself to be a thoughtful, courageous, and fiscally responsible leader. While I have not actively sought the formal support of any organizations, my record of leadership has earned me the support of a cross section of citizens, as well as business and community leaders across Atlanta. Having the support of registered voters in Atlanta is most important because they are the ones who determine the outcome of elections.

Just a few examples of my leadership include:

- Sponsoring the legislation that overhauled our City's pension system. As a result, our City reserves have gone from nearly \$7M to close to \$150M.
- Authoring the toughest Panhandling legislation in Atlanta's history. Our laws now combine empathy with enforcement.
- Served as Executive Director of The City of Atlanta and Fulton County Recreation Authority. In less than two years, I led a team in facilitating the entire sales transaction and transition of Turner Field to Georgia State University. The area is now undergoing a nearly \$300M redevelopment.
- Called upon the City to explore the creation of Displacement Free Zones, so that Atlanta will remain affordable for all.
- Created Invest in Southwest, an urban planning and economic development initiative to spur investment in underserved communities.

**2. What is your vision for the City of Atlanta and how would you implement it? Please be specific.**

My vision for Atlanta is to have a City government that works to meet and enhance communities at their point of need. For the business community, it means working together to align the administrative functions and focus of the City so that the economic growth and development that we are experiencing continues to expand. For our communities, it means undertaking a block by block analysis of what the issues are, and working to come up with meaningful solutions to enhance each neighborhood.

I envision a city with safe communities, thriving schools and opportunities for our young people, and a world class transit system. These are not stand-alone issues, and one cannot be addressed without simultaneously tackling them all.

**3. Please identify the three greatest issues or problems facing the City of Atlanta and specifically how you would work to solve them.**

1. Crime

As Mayor, I will work with our Police Department and the Atlanta Police Foundation to increase the number of officers on our streets. This number can be enhanced by replacing sworn personnel with civilians in administrative functions. I will also work with the private sector to fund and expand our camera integration system.

2. Education

I will create a cabinet level position to serve as a Director of Education. This person will be charged with proactively working with our schools and communities to ensure that each young person in this city has access to a quality education, as well as work directly with our communities to address the issues that may be impeding educational success.

3. Transportation

I will continue to work with MARTA to expand rail throughout the city, as well as other stakeholders to expand sidewalks, bike lanes, and walking trails.

I will also seek creative solutions to address our transit funding issues. For example, I will call upon the ARC and MARTA to explore working with private rail line owners for the use of commercial rail lines by our transit system.

**4. As Mayor, what would be your goals for your first 100 days in office and what would your approach be to achieving them.**

My goals for the first 100 days would include meeting with community and business leaders to further delve into the issues that are facing our city. I will also undertake a walking audit of each community, street by street, to best understand what the physical wants and needs are within our respective neighborhoods.

I will also work with the Atlanta Police Department to finalize the long awaited and needed Zone realignments.

A division of Business Constituent services will also be established.

**5. How do you view the City of Atlanta's financial position? Should the City of Atlanta have additional tools in place to ensure financial management going forward?**

The City of Atlanta has a solid financial position, but there is always room for improvement. I will seek ongoing assessments and corresponding recommendations from the Efficiency Commission accordingly.

**6. Please describe your philosophy regarding property tax assessment and municipal taxation.**

Property taxes should only be raised as a last resort and citizens should never face a stunning increase like the one recently experienced in Fulton County. Whenever given the opportunity, voters should have the option to choose rather to impose taxes upon themselves for specific matters, such as transportation, municipal, and school improvements.

**7. What is your opinion of Atlanta’s MOST, and what approach do you support to fund long-term water and sewer operations?**

The MOST is sorely needed and I would support its extension to fund long-term sewer operations.

**8. Would you change the current procurement process to protect against “pay to play”? If so, what changes would you support?**

The current procurement process does not appear to be the culprit. However, to the extent there are any pay to play issues, they are driven by unscrupulous employees and they will be dealt with accordingly.

**9. If elected, describe your role in ensuring ethical and transparent management of City resources by City employees?**

Unlike my opponents, I have never faced an ethics charge or been levied a fine during my tenure on Council. As the leader of the City, it will be incumbent upon me to continue to set an example of transparent and ethical management that is beyond reproach. I have found it exceedingly helpful to seek proactive advice from our Ethics Department on issues and will continue that practice as Mayor.

**10. What economic development strategies would you prioritize to ensure the City of Atlanta captures its fair share of future job growth.**

I look forward to working with Invest Atlanta and our business leaders to create the most effective strategy for capturing job growth. As Mayor, it is incumbent to work with the Board of Education to ensure that we have a viable workforce, as well as to make sure our communities are safe so that business are comfortable remaining and relocating here.

I will also create a division of Business Constituent Services, charged only with addressing the needs and concerns of our business community.

**11. What strategies would your administration implement to ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing?**

I would work with our non profit and corporate leaders to expand the Displacement Free Zones that I called upon the City to create. I will also require, just as I did with the sale of property around Turner Field, that projects seeking public support, have a percentage designated for affordable workforce housing.

**12. What workforce development strategies should the next administration prioritize? How will these strategies address and improve economic mobility among low-to-mid skill workers?**

Meeting and enhancing each of our communities at their point of need is paramount. Through the opening of Community Enhancement Centers, there will be a physical place that residents can go and receive information on expanding their potential. For example, if there is a low graduation rate in a certain community, there will be a physical place where residents can go and take GED classes. We will take the tools to elevate the economic mobility of our residents to their doorsteps.

**13. What are the three most important transportation/infrastructure projects that should occur in the City of Atlanta? Please rank them by importance and urgency and explain your reasoning.**

The three most important projects are:

1. Expansion of heavy rail into DeKalb County - DeKalb County is one of the largest within the metro area and expansion into the soon to be annexed corridor will be a tremendous benefit for the entire region.
2. Expansion of light rail into Southwest Atlanta – Light rail into Southwest Atlanta will help create much needed connectivity and balance for the city. A large part of workforces live within the area and currently finds themselves stifled by the lack of transportation options.
3. Sidewalks connectivity throughout the entire city – Walkable cities are important for a number of reasons and help to improve the health and property values of residents.

**14. What strategies would you pursue to improve the safety – both real and perceived – of all residents, visitors, and workers in Atlanta? What partnerships are needed to realize these strategies?**

I would pursue the expansion of our police force and the completion of our camera integration system. I will also work to expand housing for our officers within the city. Partnership with the Atlanta Police Foundation, and other business and community stakeholders are key to effectively improve the safety of our communities.

**15. Georgia ranks 49th among states per-capita for art funding. What actions would you take to ensure our arts and culture organizations have the funding they need to thrive and enrich our city?**

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Mayor's representative on the Service Board, which has worked to facilitate art projects throughout the city. As Mayor, I look forward to pursuing, through the State Legislature, a dedicated funding source for the Arts.