

Below is the unedited questionnaire response of:

Rebecca King
Atlanta City Council
District 7

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

As a taxpayer in District 7 who has a record of community service on boards that are already working to improve the City of Atlanta, I feel qualified to serve my district and the City of Atlanta. My diverse career experience as an educator and as a business owner has given me a broader perspective in how government affairs affect the daily lives of people. The people below are supporting me and their support is important as they represent a cross section of the district where I live, and they can vouch for my integrity and work in civic affairs.

Ben Howard: Have known him for three years since my involvement in the Buckhead Condo Alliance.

Anita Patterson: Have known her for ten years and have worked with her on Georgia Shakespeare and the Epilepsy Foundation of Georgia.

Janet Fields: Have known her for six years as a resident of the condominium where my family lives and have served with her on our Homeowners Association.

Mike and Gina Gaw: Have known them for four years. First, as residents of our condominium and second, as neighbors after their move to a close Buckhead neighborhood.

Chris and Wendy Sanders: Have known them for three years as our daughters attended the same preschool and now as our daughters attend the same school.

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

My vision of Atlanta is a diverse, international city where opportunity continues to be prolific, where all people may enjoy a sustainable quality of life, where citizens want to make Atlanta's environment clean, sustainable, and where planning makes Atlanta's infrastructure a forethought so that a crisis may be averted.

By working with other City Council members, civic leaders, business leaders, I will continue to connect with residents to understand their issues and concerns. I will be in regular contact with NPOs and Neighborhood associations to engage and encourage public feedback. I will serve to do for the people, as opposed to serving to do to the people. I will continue the public/private partnership for people to communicate the value for Atlanta in having a population that embraces sustainability. Focus on traffic and congestion measures. Continue to work with organizations that enhance quality of life.

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

Sustainability-work with private organizations and businesses to motivate people to practice sustainability by recycling, conserving water and lowering energy costs.

Traffic: Encourage, educate and utilize public transportation and alternative transportation to be a way of life, rather than a crisis option or an afterthought. Work with the Department of Transportation and the City of Atlanta to make roads efficient through placement and timing of traffic signals and ease of use.

Infrastructure: Assess the infrastructure so that there is a clear list and the target of each budget year to address the infrastructure needs.

4. As a City Council member, how would you manage collaborating with your colleagues on difficult citywide issues versus representing your own constituents?

Getting out to other areas and meet with other City Council Representatives in their district to understand how something affects their district and Atlanta as a whole. Having open communication with everyone in Atlanta not just the constituents of the district where I am elected. Also, question the process to see if there are better ways to evolve existing processes when needed.

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?

Strong in terms of the reserves that are listed on the website. Yet, if there are infrastructure needs that cannot be fully funded without additional taxes, I find that concerning. Continuing to balance the budget and to utilize excess funds to improve Atlanta's infrastructure with a rolling list that is outlined and prioritized. Having open access to budgets, reserves, and cash flow statements. There should be a financial audit procedure in place as it not only protects the taxpayers, but protects elected officials as well. Most organizations yearly have a third-party audit of their finances to show their fiscal responsibility and transparency. Look to the bond assessments as another tool to determine city financial stability.

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

When property taxes push residents and/or businesses out of their home or property and we are not competitive in the region, I believe there needs to be a review of how to lower the tax or implement a program that offers taxation after a sell. When people move to nearby counties or states to lower their taxes that should alert officials that there is a need to review the taxation structure. I support a tax assessment structure that has caps to avoid sudden increases in taxes. Just as important on the cap for the increase should be the cap on the decrease as there should be a minimum property tax so that the City of Atlanta can continue to function. Communication is critical to letting people know in advance the possibility of increased taxes especially, if it is a year for assessments.

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

Atlanta Municipal Option Sales Tax – I like the fact that it targets specific needs. Also important is that the tax offers people the opportunity to vote to self-tax. I would advocate for the department that is requesting the funds to show where the money is being used; therefore, elected officials would be required to do more homework before making a decision and there would be more transparency in the use of funds. There is an opportunity to reevaluate the impact tax to see if it is being used fairly and where the impact is occurring. If development is also stressing the system in certain zones, then that zone should have higher impact fees.

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

Businesses should have to note their donation to any elected official that would be in the position to vote on their bid or whether the bid is in their district. Reinforce the procedures in place. Council members should review the procurement to determine if there is a need for a member to not vote on the bid if there is a perceived conflict of interest. The total bid amounts need to be accessible and an executive summary reason should be given to the winning bid. The low bid needs just as much justification for the approval as a higher bid.

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

If elected it is my responsibility as a Councilmember to ensure the resource management practices are periodically reviewed to ensure an effective system exists. Part of that process should include resource audits that evaluate quality, utilization and effectiveness. The results of these audits should be made available to the citizens, and any time there is a question about usage, a given department should be able to show resource usage and applicability. I would support existing procedures used to enforce rules around the misuse of city resources. Such procedures and rules should also be periodically reviewed

for applicability and enforceability. Transparency and accessibility to the metrics that guide resource management need to be made available by the city's leadership and I intend to help guide that process.

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

Economic development strategies-Continuing to work with partners to enhance transportation and development of zones that do not have a strong tax base or have not been developed at all. Work with current and future businesses to assess their need of a strong workforce and partner to enhance those needs. Work with the Atlanta Public School District to understand their needs and give resources to infrastructure that supports a successful environment that will attract top companies.

11. What strategies would you implement to ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing?

Enforcing the current mandates in new apartments and have compliance or a penalty of those mandates would be a start. The housing is here; however, it is unaffordable to many. Review policies that have been successful in other cities that have helped people maintain their homes. Look to organizations to partner that help people that are struggling to afford housing with a loan or a down payment that steps the homebuyer into a reasonable mortgage so that there is success. Lessen property taxes for those in public service sectors, i. e. policemen/women, teachers and firemen/women.

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?

Look to employers and businesses to be a partner in programs that will upgrade or train employees in our region. Have the agencies, NGO's and the government obtain a clear understanding of the skills needed to hire employees. School and colleges should have access to that information and be a partner in the process.

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

Atlanta Water/Sewer capacity: without water and sewer improvements there will be no quality of life because water is essential to most shared functions and it also facilitates the disposal of waste. An adequate water supply and sewage that meets population needs are critical to maintaining human health and safety.

Marta/Path 400/Beltline connectivity: Providing alternative transportation and incentives to use synchronized traffic lights and roads that are less congested throughout the city, especially during peak hours in morning/evening and during special events. The city's traffic problem is exacerbated by ill- synched traffic lights, as well as severe potholes and road closures. Having passable roads also allows for life safety responders to address emergencies and lower response time.

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?

Continue to ask residents to be vigilant by watching out for others and encourage residents to reduce the opportunity for crime through protective measures. Maintain a network of all safety occupations to keep open lines of communication in a beat or zone. Having a buy-in from the residents and businesses to have video feed from cameras to help monitor areas and neighborhoods. Work as many venues of communication as possible. Utilizing computer and mobile device apps and neighborhood associations will help to keep people aware of crime in their neighborhood or zones. Work with community partners to help the homeless, mentally ill and repeat offenders find recovery success in Atlanta. By partnering and investing in people the hope is to make them tax producers instead of tax receivers and off the streets. The appearance of a safe neighborhood or business zone begets business and conventions. Give police men and women the tools that

they need to be successful. If that is through codes that are enforceable or measurable or if that is through incentives to lessen crime levels, then working through those would be a first step.

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

Look to partnership with businesses and organizations to ask that their grant structures or foundations include the arts in their mission statements. Grant applications for foundations are narrowly defined often leaving out the Arts in their mission. Line item on the city of Atlanta budget needs to stay and needs to continue to be strong.