

Below is the unedited questionnaire response of:

Laban King
Mayoral Candidate



2017 Candidate Pre-Interview Questionnaire

Please type response to questions in the field provided. You may also attach a resume or other description to provide us with additional detail.

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.

I currently owned an investment firm called Millennial Global Investments. We focus of low end residential real estate and recently opened a foreign exchange/cryptocurrencies auto trading unit that trades for 693 people across the country.

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

My vision for Atlanta is to make this a city that is balanced, building an all inclusive environment where everyone has the ability to profit. We will create a system where people who work hard actually benefit from the fruits of their labor.

As mayor I will make sure that City Hall is open to all those who are interested in seeing Atlanta move forward. This will be the first administration that will work directly with the business community to make major decisions about the growth of Atlanta.

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

A. Income/Inequality Gap: This gap actually births the other major issues that our city struggles with. Lack of adequate income causes poverty and homelessness to rise while access to healthcare simultaneously becomes more inaccessible. Once this happens, sex trafficking and STDs/HIV become more prevalent in those neighborhoods. This causes the communities to begin to break down and leads to under performing school systems. All of these fundamental collapses starve the small businesses and cause food deserts. To counteract this, we must create a housing system with a budget that does not force the participants to live below the poverty level. This way healthcare and life can be maintained. In order to bring money back into impoverished areas, we will rebuild the school systems and beautify those neighborhoods by adding recreational centers and digital libraries. Lastly, we will employ a special task force that will focus specifically on sex trafficking.

B. Mass Transit: Our city growth has exposed that our transit system is inadequate. So I propose that we learn from countries outside of the US who have similar issues but have created systems to support their growth.

C. Small Businesses: We must support small businesses in our different communities because they can actually help our traffic crisis by hiring people from their prospective local neighborhoods. So the people in those communities would in turn buy locally. This growth of revenue would then allow the businesses to expand and potentially grow to service not just the city but the united states and the world. This is what can happen if we mend the middle ground and begin to support our own community.

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

My first 100 days in office will be reviewing the current systems in place and seeing which ones we need to continue, alter, or discontinue. Looking at everything from the perspective of the mayor will give me a different view point.

I plan on creating a special committee comprised of local, national, and international experts of mass transit leaders. This committee will begin to build the framework for a realistic way to community the cities growth while incorporating state of the art mass transportation.

I plan to have meeting with members of the business and development community to see what projects we can focus on to continue the growth of the city.

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

Atlanta's water and sewer operations were not designed to handle the growth of the city. With the passing on MOST, the citizens of Atlanta have shown a commitment to making sure that the city has the funding to be able to fix the issue. Along with the 1% sales tax, we must make sure that we seek additional state and federal funds to fix our water and sewage issue as well as creating policies that will ensure future developers fund fixing the problem.

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

The current procurement process that protects against "pay to play" is not strong enough. Naturally, anyone who is caught obtaining contracts illegally will be prosecuted to highest extent. Any companies involved in illegal acts will be suspended from being able to do future business with the city. If they have a current and active business relationship with the city, pending careful review, the relationship will be terminated upon the decision of the council if

wrongdoing is determined. To support this, I will create an independent review board that will give an opportunity for companies to appeal suspension or termination.

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

Every department in the City of Atlanta will be required to submit a weekly expenditure report by the close of the business day every Friday. The report will be published on the City of Atlanta's website. If a citizen has questions about any money spent, they will be able to submit an inquiry to the department. The department must respond within 30 days of receiving the inquiry.

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

This is where I would rely heavily on the guidance of the business community. As Mayor of Atlanta, I will make sure that we create a stronger relationship with both the local and non-local business communities. The goal is to assist businesses that are currently in Atlanta and give them all the resources they need to expand and create job growth, as well as invite other business here that would like to make Atlanta their home.

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

We will adopt the 80/20 policy that New York City has. 20% of all new housing developments will have income based tier housing. Under the 80/20 policy, for specific periods of time 20% of a project's units must remain affordable to low-income households and these units will be subject to a Regulatory Agreement between the owner and HFA. HFA's Regulatory Agreement assures that the maximum rent on these affordable units cannot exceed 30% of the applicable income limits. The remaining units in an 80/20 project can be rented at market rates.

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

One of the major problems that this city has is the large number of citizens who lack new age job skills. I believe we can develop programs to teach the skills that are needed to procure employment in this city. This training will be available to those who are interested.

- 1. 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.*

*First: **Expanding Marta.** Excessive development is a waste of time if we do not create a reliable system that residents can use to get around the city.*

*Second: **Syncing the traffic lights and creating more one way streets.** A large issue with Atlanta traffic has to do with poor syncing of traffic lights. During high times of traffic, we will make sure that lights reflect the conditions of the traffic at that time. We will also make sure that we have APD to assist if necessary.*

*Third: **Fixing the roads.** We will do a survey of the worst roads in the city and make sure that we fix them in order of the severity of their condition coupled with their daily passenger usage.*

1. *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?*

Atlanta's issues with safety has a direct correlation with the poverty epidemic. I believe if you focus on bring jobs to the city as well as more productive activities and spaces for young people to go. We will have more police active in community events as well as sponsoring public forums to promote dialog between the people of Atlanta and the APD. I will make sure to help build a structure so that all areas in the city can have a neighborhood watch program.

1. *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?*

As someone who grew up directly influenced in the arts, I am strongly committed to making Atlanta become a world epicenter for the arts. It is impossible to build culture and wealth without the arts. As the next mayor, I would invest more funding into the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as well as community arts programs and venues.

One of the major plans that I have as the next Mayor of Atlanta is to create an arts district in southwest Atlanta. We will provide grants for local artists and turn some unused city owned buildings into artist workspaces.

I am looking forward to hearing the concerns and suggestions of the arts community to see how, as the next Mayor of Atlanta, I can make this city internationally known its contributions to the arts.