



Below is the unedited questionnaire response of:

Ron Aribó
Atlanta City Council
District 1

2017 Candidate Pre-Interview Questionnaire

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.

My experience as an Analyst with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and as a Commissioned Officer with the United States Army qualifies me for this role. I have extensive experience managing complex projects that require collaborating with cross-functional teams, efficiently communicating with external partners, and creating effective project plans.

As an analyst with the U.S. GAO, I am responsible for minimizing program risks by proactively identifying potential roadblocks. I worked as part of an audit team conducting in-depth research and analysis on studies requested by Congress to improve the efficiency and /or effectiveness of programs. In addition to my experience as an analyst, as the commander of my unit, I am in charge of streamlining the communication between various departments in order to complete projects within budget and in a timely manner.

I also currently volunteer as the Program Developer/ Volunteer Coordinator for the Irvin Academy, a non-profit organization helping at-risk youth. In this role, I identify key partners and funders to contribute to Irvin Academy programs and future projects, such as weekly mentoring workshops, community service projects and enrichment activities for participants. I am at ease working independently or as part of a team. I am confident that my leadership roles, conscientious work ethics, and ability to build and maintain strong relationships will help me to excel on the council.

Current Endorsement:

International Brotherhood of Police Officers
Irvin Academy

These organizations and the countless other individuals support is important as it validates the desire for change and confidence in the leadership I will provide.

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

Having lived in Atlanta for more than 10 years, dating back to my collegiate days in pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science from Georgia State University to serving in the military and now having a family, a beautiful wife and son, I am focused on fostering a community that every family would be proud to call home.

The motto of this campaign is "Strength through Service" because it is my firm belief as we as neighbors, friends and as a community serve together everybody is strengthened economically, educationally and we all can find safety and protection through our deeply rooted associations. Strength through service is a way of life and this is the type of leadership I will provide to the district and the city of Atlanta. My vision is to bring the "community" atmosphere back to the city where everyone (citizens, businesses and government) are actively involved in creating and making opportunities for everyone.

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

Education – The sacred trust and duty that is bestowed among parents, educators, elected officials, and the community to provide a high performing scholastic environment is paramount to the future success of children. As a councilman I will:

- Encourage a holistic approach to education to produce best outcome for students, parents, teachers, and the community
- Collaborate with APS to ensure the most efficient a fair allocation for schools
- Be a listening ear and advocate for educational concerns as that may arise

Safety and Wellbeing - Having the peace of mind and the ability to enjoy all the amenities of our community should be a fundamental right afforded to all of us. As a councilman I will:

- Lead efforts to increase community and law enforcement collaboration
- Support more visible security presence for our Marta Train transit customers.
- Provide incentives to businesses that establishes troubled youth employment or adult training programs
- Push for a new compassionate vision in assisting our homeless population

Transportation - With our homes and businesses being in the heart of Atlanta, any infrastructure decisions made impacts us and our community significantly. As a councilman I will:

- Push for a safer, more efficient and modern public transit system

- Incentivize employers to promote and provide alternate travel programs and schedules for workers.

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

My first priority is to serve the people who elected me into office but I understand the importance of working with my colleagues to getting work done. My experience in the United States Army has taught me how to manage people in difficult situation

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 is at a pivotal moment in regards to our financial position. For the first time in years we are projected to run growing deficits if our revenue and expense continue its current trajectory. Simply raising taxes or cutting expenses will not solve this issue. As a councilmen I plan address this issue by

- Ensure that Atlanta is getting a good return on investment for any tax breaks given to attract business.
- Incentivize citizens and business to invest more in the community in which they live and operate.
- Ensure developers have contract in place with community before construction and establish contract bidding transparency.

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

Property taxation is one of the simplest ways to for a city to raise revenue for its essential services. I do believe that value of building should be included in the property tax valuation, but it I am opposed to rapid property tax increases on long term community citizens due to new development. I believe new development should be taxed at the current value of building and land while existing home property tax rates should have a rate increase cap and phased in overtime.

Furthermore, monies raised though this tax should be used to perform only essential government programs. For example, such as but not limited to education, public safety, and infrastructure and not be used to purchase/build new stadiums without the vote of the citizens.

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

At a surface look at the program it appears to be achieving the goals attended, but further analysis will need to be conducted to ensure that it continues.

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

All city contract bidding and procurements should be totally transparent. City government officials need to disclose any relationship they have with any business seeking a contract and be recused from voting on said contract.

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

I understand the concept of just because something is not illegal doesn't mean that it is ok to do. Other than leading by example and not creating unnecessary red tape to get work done, I believe the best way manage resources are the following:

- Ensuring that department managers are trained and held accountable for actions of themselves and subordinates.
- Provide strict oversight to any budget increase request.

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

In order for us to grow economically we must have a city that businesses believe is accessible, offers first class amenities to its workers and have the resources needed for the business to succeed. Furthermore, as we attract investment into our community we must ensure that OUR community's character is preserved and that the wealth from those investments are not wholly outsourced. As councilmen I would do the following:

- Collaborate with APS efforts to increase our schools national ratings by pushing for a more holistic community based learning style.
- Implement infrastructure solutions in collaboration with surrounding cities to make businesses feel the city has accessibility.
- Promote policies to boost development of Atlanta's IT infrastructure to attract more jobs of tomorrow.

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

Affordable housing is essential for the health of a city. From the young person graduating from high school or college to our seniors, we must not make it impossible to live and work in the city of Atlanta. I will do the following to as councilmen:

- Continue to support programs like Invest Atlanta to assist the first time home buyer.
- Promote new policies that would limit the rapid increase of property taxes for long-term property owners.
- Incentivize developers to create mix-development communities

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?

Keeping our workforce skills up is vital if we want to be an attractive city for business investment. However, this task in my view can only be accomplished by having heavy involvement of business and educational leaders. I believe the city should focus its efforts on bringing together stakeholders (key business leaders, university and primary education leaders) to create affordable continuous educational programs and curriculum. Once accomplished I will support the following:

- Incentivize business to work in partnership to sponsor employee and prospective employee development.
- Encourage more partnerships and businesses to take advantage of opportunities to work with our universities to establish trade, technology, and other employee development programs.

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.

1. Feasibility plan need to be created on Marta train expansion to circle the city similar to interstate 285.
2. Parking solution for downtown Atlanta
3. Continuous repairs on current roads

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?

As previously stated, having the peace of mind and the ability to enjoy all the amenities of our community should be a fundamental right afforded to all of us. As a councilmen I will:

- Lead efforts to increase community and law enforcement collaboration
- Support more visual security presence for our Marta Train transit customers.
- Push for a new compassionate vision in assisting our homeless population

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?

Atlanta's arts and culture is important part of what makes the unique identity of the city. However, we must respect our citizen's vote and opinions on funding priorities. With this being said, as councilmen I will

- Push for more awareness of the benefits of these organizations and initiatives to gain more public support.
- Create dialogue with other council members on creative ways the city may be able to help and use these organization due to the lack of investment.