



Below is the unedited questionnaire response of:

Marci Overstreet
Atlanta City Council
District 11

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.

A brief summary of the skills that I will bring to the City Council position includes, but are not limited to:

- * A long-standing committed resident of the progression of District 11 and the City of Atlanta;
- * Solid education geared towards addressing community interests and needs; Policy writing
- * Active leadership while being a team player, raising my hand to work on community and organization projects often;
- * Exceptional organizational skills;
- * Proven collaborator willing to listen AND effectively communicate with neighbors; Strong people skills needed to engage with constituents on controversial issues.
- * Insightful of the historic nature of the District and the necessity to grow while preserving; Community relationships and respect.

NOTE: A list of supporters and organizations will be provided during the interview process. I have the support of several community leaders, city & state officials and organizations.

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

My vision for the City of Atlanta is one that is SAFE, transparent, equitable, progressive, accountable, compassionate, diverse, inclusive and sustainable. Specifically, this vision can be realized through diligently working daily for the betterment of ALL areas of Atlanta.

- * I will invest in technology and upkeep of our public safety sector. I strongly believe in collaboration with public safety leaders to advance programs that will enhance our communities, which will also include an increase in the number of officers.
- * I will implement a transparency policy as an agreement with my constituents ensuring they will have access to weekly updates of the Council's developments and affairs. This will directly enhance fiscal responsibility. I will follow up on each request from a resident and include the findings and/or resolutions in the weekly updates.
- * I will continue to foster my longtime good relationships with residents, listening to their concerns and opportunities, which will promote creating policy and legislation that, will bring about the most positive impact and promote sustainable options.

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

The City of Atlanta's three greatest issues at this moment are TRANSPARENCY and ETHICS, Affordable Housing during growth and Transportation. While there are at least three more that I feel are of specific concern to District 11, these three are mentioned most often citywide.

* I plan to RESTORE INTERGRITY by implementing a transparency policy as an agreement with my constituents ensuring they will have access to weekly updates of the Council's developments and affairs. This will also directly enhance fiscal responsibility. I will follow up on each request from a resident and include the findings and/or resolutions in the weekly updates on a portal available to the public.

* I feel that we should strive to become a certified City of Ethics.

* I advocate for more frequent ethics training for employees and vendors.

* I advocate for a PUBLIC balanced budget.

* I will look closely at the appointment of the Ethics Board.

* I will have a regular "Concerned Citizens of the community "meetings. "Concerned Business Citizens" community meetings are needed as well.

* I plan to protect the fibers that has given Atlanta the INCLUSIVE city of opportunity reputation that it has today. Understanding that Atlanta has grown exponentially both economically and in statue, it is even more important now to protect those that have created a home in the city. They deserve legislation that will aid in keeping them in their homes.

- My extensive travel has afforded me the opportunity to explore and study many different transit systems. I'm committed to expanding MARTA and other modes of connectivity. I will work diligently with the council on behalf of the constituents to utilize the slated multi-millions of dollars to advance our transportation solutions with an innovative and comprehensive approach.

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

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller

I strongly believe that working for the greater good will always help each individual cause. It is for this very reason that electing an appropriate qualified councilperson is paramount. I strongly believe in partnerships and collaboration. I possess excellent interpersonal skills coupled with strong analytical skill, which are both needed in order to achieve a consensus

when working to provide amenities and programs that enhance an influential, demonstrative city like Atlanta.

Lastly, I would operate with integrity at all times for the betterment of the CITY OF ATLANTA and not my own personal agenda. District 11 will never be slighted due to my collaboration with council members.

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 is in a good financial position, operating in the black with promising projects actively materializing and on the horizon. As council person I would ensure financial stability by :

- * Maintaining a balanced budget;
- * Prioritizing revenue diversification. We must keep track of each and every dollar AND appropriately implement fees and taxes as needed;
- * Clearly identify the city's LONG TERM financial goals and plans.

I feel that we can further advance our city's financial position by:

- * Focusing more on frequent ethics training for employees and vendors.
- * I will look closely at the appointment of the Ethics Board. The board should absolutely include a community voice as well as a business voice at the table.

I believe that INTEGRITY, both perceived and actual, is a vital aspect of maintaining financial stability.

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

I strongly disagree with a property tax assessment and municipal taxation increases that are excessive and exponential without proper notice, proven explanation, a "phase-in" schedule and/or subsidies and exemptions for elderly long-term residents. I believe that when property tax assessment and municipal taxation increases exponentially without warning, the most vulnerable citizens are displaced unnecessarily. Making Atlanta a thriving AFFORDABLE, FAIR city will be a priority for me.

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

I feel that revenues generated from the Municipal Option Sales Tax that the City has been able to repair and replace old sewer lines, which has been vital to the sustainability of our city. MOST is a prime example of the city being accountable to the well being of ALL citizens. I support policy-making that places the City of Atlanta's quality of life FIRST. Atlanta residents deserve their tax dollars to be used directly for us, supporting our quality of life and forwarding the welfare of the next generation.

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

I advocate for a procurement process that will NEVER allow a "pay for play" culture. I plan to RESTORE INTEGRITY by striving to become a certified City of Ethics. I feel that it's paramount that the council commissions an internal audit of the procurement process as well as the current procurement procedures. An independent authority must implement this audit. It is also my belief that there should be a separate committee that monitors procurement practices regularly. In other words, oversight is needed in our procurement process in order to rebuild trust and integrity in the process by the citizens.

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

I plan to lead with an OPEN DOOR POLICY. I will implement a transparency policy as an agreement with my constituents ensuring they will have access to weekly updates of the Council's developments and affairs. I will follow up on each request from a resident and include the findings and/or resolutions in the weekly updates on a portal available to the public. I advocate for a PUBLIC balanced budget.

* I feel that we should strive to become a certified City of Ethics.

* All residents should have access to the transparent policy portal. Furthermore, this portal should be user-friendly.

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

Atlanta is a city that has to constantly compete with viable cities in close proximity for talent and business. We need to ensure that our salaries, training, quality job availability and benefits remain competitive at all times. As councilperson I plan to:

- * Constantly monitor job training partnership opportunities;
- * Build on AWDA as it is another avenue for the city to play a role in training and placing people that need us most;
- * Actively partner with and support the Board of Education's productive programs that will help educate our children and provide needed after school programs that will have a direct positive impact on future job readiness and growth;
- * Support Beltline initiatives, as they will all be steered towards growth, active community engagement and education of green space use and expansion;
- * FOCUS on collaboration, business training and business support.

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

I intend to continue the trend of implementing an affordable housing agreement with each and every development contract per neighborhood. I understand the importance of having these agreements in place at the beginning of the negotiation process.

I also advocate for affordable housing initiatives because it is our responsibility to work together to reduce homelessness. Many families and individuals depend on the city to hold developers accountable to the needs of the masses.

I'd like to work with the surrounding counties, the state, public and private organizations to ensure that we are making a way for Atlantans to thrive and that means that at minimum, ALL citizens deserve an opportunity to have an affordable place to live.

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?

The next administration should prioritize JOB TRAINING and job creation. Atlanta is well placed with a reputation of working towards civil protection. While in office I plan to further the economic mobility of low-to-mid skill workers by:

- * Continuously monitor job training partnership opportunities;
- * Build on AWDA as it is another avenue for the city to play a role in training and placing people that need us most;
- * Staying sensitive to the divide between have and have-nots while actively working to narrow the gap.
- * Paying close attention to BEST PRACTICES of cities that have excelled in workforce development.

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. Expand MARTA rail line everywhere especially south and southwest.

* This area is directly tied to the world's busiest airport. There are several opportunities for improvement in connectivity for the citizens on the southside of Atlanta.

2. Incorporate a more diverse and extensive plan for transportation options.

* Other global cities have effectively incorporated bicycle travel, walking trails and sidewalks, rapid express buses, commuter rails etc. to offer options for travel throughout their cities and to other close-by metropolis. Atlanta can certainly offer more. I will work hard to ensure that this is actualized

3. Ensure that there is also a voice from the citizens on the transportation board.

* This is a necessity as there should always be a person at the decision table that is a representative of our peers. This viewpoint is invaluable and will be viewed as a measure of checks and balances.

I believe that the expansion of MARTA is long overdue. For a robust, commercial leader city like Atlanta to have such a lack of transportation options is remiss.

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?

While a council member I plan to make safety a PRIORITY in the City Atlanta. I know that a good quality of life is paramount. When safety is compromised, quality of life goes down. I plan to support our Atlanta Police Department (APD) by ensuring that there are enough police officers employed and working on the streets of the city. I also plan to support APD by enhancing community engagement efforts, updating technology throughout the training facilities and the city. I would continue to strive to be a "smarter" city by approving and suggesting legislation that will allow the APD to conduct business more efficiently.

I advocate for collaboration with the police foundation and its much-needed programs such as At-Promise, Operation Shield and others similar.

I feel that community outreach programs that include the police are needed more now than ever before. The citizens should have a collaborative relationship their Zoned precincts in order to keep each neighborhood safe.

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?

I've raised my hand for many years to work to advance The Arts in this city.

I believe that the availability of cultural activities in a city is an important consideration when travelers looking for a place to explore. I also feel that City Council policy creation should include a well-rounded approach to developing a "whole" city. The arts are vital components to offering culture to our residents. I would whole-heartedly support continuing to support AND RAISE our efforts in the area of the Arts and Cultural Department in the City of Atlanta. This includes supporting the Board of Education's initiatives to expand Arts for children. I will also continue to advocate for partnership with notable organizations that have made significant strides in the arts community. In that same vein, I would be against de-funding any arts program that is productive and viable.