



Below is the unedited questionnaire response of:

**Kimberly Parmer**  
Atlanta City Council  
District 4

## 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.

### **Kimberly Parmer- Candidate for Atlanta City Council District 4**

My qualifications include I'm an 11-year resident of Atlanta's District 4. Four years as a resident of Century Lofts in Mechanicsville and now a 7 year homeowner in the West End Historic District. While living in District 4, I was also serving my district and the entire City of Atlanta as a past public servant employee of the Atlanta Department of Watershed Management. As a project manager in the engineering, planning and construction industry, my work included speaking before several City committees and full council for budgeting, design and construction of major infrastructure projects. I know Local government! Lastly, in the community, I served as 3 year president of the West End Neighborhood Development, chair and member of NPU-T Zoning and Land Use Committee. Again this work included making recommendations and speaking before applicable City committees regarding various City legislation.

5 organizations/individuals that are supporting my candidacy

Atlanta Police Federation- pending; decision will be made after qualifying period

Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors (RPAC)- pending; interview selection is after qualifying period

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

I'm a proud City of Atlanta native and we pride ourselves on being a City that's too busy to hate branded with the birthplace of the modern Civil Rights Movement and a committed leader in creating viable businesses. I would like to pick up that mantel with a strong focus or vision that has the same pride yet passionate with purpose and that brings proactive results. By implementing policies that aren't just economic drivers for the City of Atlanta but inclusive of all residents and businesses while planning for future growth. Committing to being an international leader not just in rhetoric only but in laws that touch every aspect of our everyday lives. That would include developing a city-wide housing policy that's inclusive of incomes, age groups, and soci-economic backgrounds. Extending the affordable housing units along the Beltline and \$25 Million homeless policy to all areas of the City of Atlanta, becoming a global leader in the water and wastewater industry with the enforcement of policies that are compliant with state, federal and international green regulations, incorporating innovative transportation solutions that are safe and sustainable and proactive rezoning that spurs economic growth and redevelopment throughout Atlanta.

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

The three greatest issues or problems facing the City of Atlanta and specifically how I would work to solve them included the following:

1. Displacement of existing residents/Gentrification
  - a. Advocating for senior property tax and rehab incentives/credits
  - b. Promoting community land trusts for property preservation
  - c. Implementing a city wide housing policy for all incomes that addresses homelessness and includes a fund for downpayment and rental assistance
  - d. Support creation of more transit oriented development that has a planned commercial component
  
2. Building and sustaining an educated workforce
  - a. I'm committed to working with APS & state officials to support curriculum and smart business growth that's STEM & STEAM focused
  - b. Professional development or maturation program throughout Atlanta government that would encourage more workforce salaries
  - c. Return of journeymen license program and continued partnership with WorkSource Atlanta formerly known as Atlanta Workforce Development Agency for skilled trade and professional certification and training
  
3. Public Safety:
  - a. Community policing grants for neighborhood public safety programming, training and court watch.
  - b. Fulfilling commitment of additional 300 to 400 police officers to complete 2000 officers hired mandate
  - c. Return of non-classified police positions to actual civilians which would put more of our sworn beat cops back on the streets
  - d. Workforce housing incentives for workforce salaries

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

Being active in the professional and community-based realms for more than 15 years, I've mastered bridging the gap in assisting communities, municipalities, government agencies, and private industries in meeting their quality of life challenges. As such, I would apply this same skill set by encouraging legislation with more public-private and intergovernmental partnerships in navigating and collaborating with my colleagues on difficult city wide issues as a City Council member while ensuring the needs of my constituents are met.

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?

Although the City's financial credit rating has improved significantly over the years, I would like to see and support a paydown of our debt services with residual income we receive from various funding streams i.e. parking services, sale/acquisition of City owned property, etc. I would also like to see a reallocation of realized savings from municipal taxations or unused TAD monies for short and long term maintenance as well as continued investment in on-call contracts to help supplement City services.

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

Part of my platform initiative is development without displacement. I initiated a series of property tax exemption workshops during 2016-present that concentrated on property tax exemptions and rehab incentives primarily for our seniors. I believe and support that our seniors should be able to age in place. Municipal taxation is an important source in funding capital improvement projects that impact our quality of life. However, going forward I would like to see and support a forecasted plan with proposed municipal taxation and renewals which includes more planning, implementation and maintenance.

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

I believe that Atlanta's MOST tax has been instrumental in meeting some of our federal consent decree requirements and helping to alleviate issues within our sewer system. Once elected I will continue to support this system as one approach to fund backlog and maintenance related MOST projects. However, I do believe creation of a storm water utility group within the Department of Watershed Management would be the optimal approach in funding long term sanitary and storm sewer operations. Lastly, I support review of the MOST tax bonding language as best management practices to ensure it's still applicable in meeting all the needs of our growing water and sewer system.

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

Being ethical and transparent is vital in the procurement process to protect against “pay to play.” In light of the recent bribery concerns, I would support an outside audit of the current procurement process to determine the breaches that led to these alleged criminal acts. Then as a local government I do believe it’s vitally important to look at the prequalification requirements for these contracts.

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

Ethical and transparent management of City resources by City employees is definitely a priority and ensuring it’s compliance would consist of the following:  
enhanced database system of inventoried City owned property, integration with City’s Video and integration (VIC) and IT systems, GPS tracking system on all City equipment, etc.

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

- Implement more Public Private partnerships
- Encourage quality education, careers and businesses with STEM, STEAM focus
- Foster innovated technology and Entrepreneurship hubs for smart business growth and development

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

- Proactive rezoning that would allow for a more mixed development (live/work/play)
- Stricter code enforcement violations on absentee landlords and owners of vacant and blighted property
- City wide housing policy with affordable unit options and fee in lieu fund that can be used for rental and down payment assistance

- 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?

Building and sustaining an educated workforce as answered in Question 3 above

- d. I'm committed to working with APS & state officials to support curriculum and smart business growth that's STEM & STEAM focused
- e. Professional development or maturation program throughout Atlanta government that would encourage more workforce salaries
- f. Return of journeymen license program more skill trades thus reducing the need to have to solely rely on outside companies for these services
- g. Continued partnership with WorkSource Atlanta formerly known as Atlanta Workforce Development Agency

- 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.

- a. Renew Atlanta Infrastructure projects-\$250Million bond approved over a year ago to address backlog of bridge, road and public safety facility projects. Need to address existing infrastructure before we can incorporate new projects
- b. ATL DOT or transportation department creation-
- c. MARTA TSPLOST- It's estimated that Atlanta will grow by another 1.5 million people by the year 2050. MARTA board appointments and projects are essential in move of future residents and ease of traffic congestion among other things for existing residents and businesses.

- 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've found that people are more alike than different and we all want a safe and clean living environment. I also believe public safety is the role and responsibility of each of us, not just paid public safety officials. Partnerships are needed with the juvenile courts, APS, state agencies, pension agencies, etc. to ensure our quality of life is at its best throughout the City of Atlanta.

Public Safety strategies:

- a. Community policing grants for neighborhood public safety programming, training and court watch.
- b. Fulfilling commitment of additional 300 to 400 police officers to complete 2000 officers hired mandate

- c. Return of non-classified police positions to actual civilians which would put more of our sworn beat cops back on the streets
- d. Workforce housing incentives for workforce salaries

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?

Continued support of the newly created entertainment and arts district  
Close work or incorporation of the entertainment and arts district into ADID  
Small business development of aspiring artists/musicians  
Proactive mixed use artist residential living and businesses (Mixed residential and commercial zoning)