

Below is the unedited questionnaire response of:

Glenn Wrightson
Mayoral Candidate

#1 Qualifications –

My qualifications are:

Commitment to my Duty – Honesty/Respect and having knowledge and experience of interacting with the City Government as a Citizen

Commitment to Duty

I believe it is a duty to conduct oneself in accordance with admirable traits and to respond to others' needs when they need or request help and assistance.

A City likewise has a duty to provide services to its citizens in the most reasonable and reliable manner since all efforts and expenditures are funded by those citizens the City is to serve.

Should we combine my commitment to duty with the City's obligation to serve the citizens, the complimentary effort along with my insistence for results will yield the needed change desired by most citizens/taxpayers.

Honesty/Respect

Honesty/Respect is the foundation of cooperation and team-activated results. Honesty/Respect can replace over-sight and wasteful scrutiny which contributes to inefficiencies and excessive costs. I will bring to the Mayor's office a level of truthfulness and honesty that is the essential ingredient for employee commitment and allegiance to accomplish the duties required of the City.

Knowledge and Experience

I attended Wake Forest University from 1970 – 1974, I have lived in Atlanta since the early 1960's attending Spring Street Elementary School (now the Puppetry Arts Theater) and Henry Grady High School. Where I was co-president of the student body in 1969-70.

I have lived in the Ansley Park, Morningside and Grant Park neighborhoods. I moved to my current residence in the Grant Park neighborhood in 1978.

I have witnessed change upon change remembering when Phipps Plaza was a cow pasture, Ansley Mall was constructed, and the Regency Hyatt Hotel was the tallest building in Atlanta. As a Atlanta

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2017 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
GLENN S. WRIGHTSON - MAYOR

citizen, not only have I enjoyed the pleasantries of the Atlanta “landscape” we know and desire, I have started a utility consulting business, visited the Varsity and Jr. Varsity (which has been replaced with a storage facility) many many times, attended many college and professional sporting events, participated in politics by running for Mayor in 2005 and 2013 (when incumbents S. Franklin and K. Reed were on the ballots) and paid property taxes and City fees year after year after year.

I am the quintessential Atlanta citizen and I am best qualified to be the Mayor because I may best know how the City services interface with the typical hard-working tax-paying citizen for both how the services are and seem to be delivered.

My experience with conducting business at City Hall is that practically every time I have inter-action with a City Hall employee – it takes two trips – to redo mistakes and omissions – Many City employees at City Hall – drop the Ball – and typically City employees interact with each other instead of focusing their attention to the citizen’s issue at hand – the process at City Hall is typically very inefficient - That needs to be corrected – I shall work to terminate ineffective City employees that are more concerned with socializing than producing.

Endorsements

I have not asked for or received any donations or endorsements. I am running as a self-funded citizen candidate relying on no “outside” directives or influences. I wish to be seen a candidate who has no “connections” to the many different interest groups in Atlanta and wish to be seen as a steward of the citizen rather than a conductor of few.

2 VISION

My vision for the City is to be dedicated to deliverables of both traditional core services and innovative projects and practices where both citizens and “out-of-towners” believe Atlanta to be the best managed and operated City anywhere.

The vision for the City government should be to put the citizens first and manage affairs to always work to benefit the City’s residents.

Additionally, in concert with delivering excellent services at modest costs to taxpayers. I propose that Atlanta adopt the slogan “Atlanta Has Heart”. This slogan typifies, by and large, not only the character of the citizenry, it portrays a willingness to plan for and position itself to meet the needs of future generations; much as a parent would provide for a child both today and tomorrow.

I would implement this vision by eliminating wasteful spending, terminating persistently non-productive employees and addressing the citizens on what the City expect to deliver in return for the citizens’ cooperation and participation in supporting a government that the citizens recognize is working on behalf of their interests.

Some of the specific measures I would take are:

* Steadily pursue to initiate and work to build a transportation system along the Beltline

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2017 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
GLENN S. WRIGHTSON - MAYOR

- * Reduce the budget of the Mayor's office
- * Seek to lower Water and Sewer Rates
- * Attempt to roll-back / eliminate 911 center surcharge from Solid Waste Bills
- * Unlock the water meters to allow water and sewer customers to read their meters so to monitor and verify their usage and to allow customers to turn off their water service as may be advisable.
- * Increase the pay for garbage collectors; that is a very dangerous job
- * Terminate non-productive employees after a 90 day improvement-allowance period
- * Work to restrict plastic grocery bags and gas powered leaf blowers
- * Stop City-sponsored "fancy-banquet" spending.
- * Replace outside-operations directors with outside worker – not "office" worker
- * Instruct EVERY City employee to pick up trash anytime and anywhere observed trash is not in a trash receptacle.
- * Have EVERY City employee "take" a complaint or suggestion from a citizen and pass it up the chain of command – not tell the citizen "you have to call that in"
- * Put Citizens before Developers

3. Three Greatest Issues facing the City

The 3 greatest issues facing the City are

I - Balancing the impulse to grow with the reality of the negative effects of congestion i.e. - automobile traffic and competition for affordable resources

II - Drug infected / Dilapidated Neighborhoods / Homelessness - resulting in less educated persons and more crime

And

III – The insistence of the City Government to favor sporting businesses, developers and enormous spending contracts as opposed to working to better serve the citizens

Solving these:

I – Solution - Provide for an allocation mechanism in the payment of City Taxes to fund neighborhood improvement programs and target specific infra-structure improvements and limit high density projects to alleviate the congestion and over-crowding

II Solution - establish mechanism for City to co-sign for bank loans to people / families to rehab a property in which they would own and reside

III – Solution – Elect Glenn S. Wrightson for Mayor for 2018 - 2021

4 First 100 days

In the First 100 days – I would work to implement the following:

Policies / proposals to:

Address eliminating plastic grocery bags and gas leaf blowers

Unlocking water meters

Read Water Meters out one more decimal – to reduce monthly bill fluctuations for like usage

Pay raises for garbage collection workers

Establish citizen review board to review City contract for costs in excess of \$1,000,000

Conduct Employee Effectiveness Evaluations on all employees earning in excess of \$60,000 per year.

Begin internal budget review for FY 18-19

Begin trimming expenses of Mayor’s office

Chart high crime areas and install mobile police precincts

5 – View of City Financial Position

Simplify the books –

Over the years, the City has announced that it did not have the money to do such and such – to then report the next day that it did find the money in a reserve account –

Many citizens believe there is “funny business” going on at City Hall with the bookkeeping

Change outside auditors every 3 years

Change pension plans for new employees – to extend time to retirement – (20 years – is too short a period)

Stop spending tax payers’ money in any non-prudent fashion.

6 - Property Tax Philosophy

Property Taxes are an essential mechanism to produce funds to operate the City.

I suggest a combination formula of fixed value and appreciation – where some 75 % - 80 % of the assessment is fixed – based on purchased price and the balance of the assessment is based on an escalation factor using current market prices –

It is wrong to escalate property taxes solely on total appreciated values.

Additionally, those who pay more property taxes should have a greater say so on how the City operates.

There needs to be a softening of stringent valuations where a lack of flexibility gives the system an extortionist notion – just because one house sold for X amount does not infer all properties would likewise trade on the market. And, it is noteworthy to understand that as property taxes on a property increase – due to an increase of assessment or a change of the mileage rate, the value of the property declines.

7 MOST – and long term funding of Water and Sewer Operations

Add / collect fifty cents (\$0.50) to all seats as all major professional sporting events to contribute to the Water and Sewer Fund.

– Approach the GA Legislature to modify the formula of certain taxes to prevent using taxes to joint finance sport stadiums

Use, as can be made possible, surcharges to Hotel / Motel charges to contribute to the Water and Sewer Revenue.

8 Change Procurement Process

Install lie-detector machines in the procurement dept. and have all vendors answer questions regarding costs and deliverables. Follow the money

Hire experts to double look at contract proposals / deliverables in excess of \$2,000,000.

Implement penalties as “Set-Aside” measures where a portion of the “contract” is returned to the City if there is any pay-to-play incidents.

9 How to ensure proper management of City resources.

Elect Glenn S. Wrightson as Mayor and
Terminate current inept employees and hire responsible workers to replace them -
Inventory assets once a year.

10 *Economic Development –*

Have a well-run City Government and new jobs will come to Atlanta – be progressive in how operations are managed – and how monies are spent – and implement smart project – to attract smart hard-working people and ED will follow – people will want to be part of a socially conscious and fiscally responsible community. Coordinate with School systems to improve educational opportunities to attract more intelligent and successful citizens.

11 *Affordable Housing*

There currently is substantial affordable housing on the West Side of Atlanta – that only needs refurbishing.

12 *Workforce Development*

Have people re-furbish dilapidated – and sort re-cycled goods

13 *Three most important transportation / infrastructure projects*

Expand MARTA –
Transit along the beltline –
Improve flow of traffic over interstates – (like river crossings)

14 *Safety*

Adjust the pay scale of police to encourage trained officers to “stay with” the City. Have higher wages scaled in an escalated fashion to increase the prospects of retaining more experienced officers.

Use allocated finds - and City co-sign for loans to assist payments to persons to re-habilitate their here-to-fore foregone neighborhoods – which would instill a sense of pride – would otherwise occupy idle time – and become a reduced crime and self-protection motivated areas.

Play classical music in all Marta Stations – and renovate to operate all decorative fountains in all parks

Have City Council members address middle and high school assemblies – on the virtues of proper conduct – have all high school 10 grade students tour the County jail – to see the inside of the jail – Have inmates address student visitors -

15 *Art Funding*

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GLENN S. WRIGHTSON - MAYOR

Increase funding of the arts – reduce extravagant spending – to make funds available – plus – add and collect fifty cents (\$0.50) per seat at all major professional sporting events and allocate the funds to support the Arts - form neighborhood music groups – City to contribute to purchase musical instruments in City Schools - introduce music and art programs at City recreation facilities.