

Candidate Questionnaire for Atlanta's 2025 Citywide Elections

Section I: Personal Background and Motivation

- Full Name: Andre Burgin
- Office Sought: Atlanta City Council District 11
- Campaign Website and Social Media Handles:

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Brief Biography (max 250 words):

Andre Burgin is a lifelong Atlanta resident and tech leader running for Atlanta City Council District 11. A proud Southwest Atlanta native from a working-class family who became a first-generation college graduate and senior research leader in the technology industry.

After graduating from Benjamin E. Mays High School, Andre earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Florida A&M University (2008) and MBA in Marketing from Clark Atlanta University (2011). His 15-year career spans major corporations including Meta, where he led AI Research teams in their Ads organization, US Bank, CareerBuilder, and Procter & Gamble. He currently serves as Lead User Experience Researcher at Genuine Parts Company.

Andre has maintained deep community roots throughout his professional success. He currently serves as Co-Chair of the Adams Park Residents Association (7+ years) and is a member of the Cascade-Greenbrier Alliance. His board service includes the Adams Park Foundation, dedicated to preserving and enhancing the historic Adams Park landscape, and Friends of FAM Inc., which has raised over \$400,000 in scholarships for Atlanta students attending HBCUs.

Andre brings a unique combination of data-driven expertise from his tech background and authentic understanding of District 11's challenges as a longtime resident. His campaign focuses on preventing displacement while fostering economic development, improving quality of life through better access to healthcare and healthy food, and bringing accountable, transparent governance to City Hall. Andre understands that Atlanta's

economic mobility crisis requires leadership that can bridge community needs with innovative solutions.

Section II: Priorities

1. What are your top three priorities if elected?

Economic Development

Drive strategic public-private partnerships through Tax Allocation Districts (TADs) to generate the momentum needed for sustainable revenue growth and attract businesses to historically underserved areas. This includes creating an Economic Development Task Force with resident representation to ensure new development benefits existing communities through workforce training and local hiring requirements.

Housing (Anti-Displacement)

Prevent displacement of legacy residents through targeted tax relief programs for seniors and long-term homeowners, coupled with down payment assistance and homeownership programs for younger families. Ensure that all new development includes meaningful affordable housing components through inclusionary zoning and community benefit agreements. This creates pathways for families at all income levels to stay and invest in District 11 long-term, building generational wealth rather than being priced out of their own neighborhoods.

Accountable Governance

Bring data-driven, transparent leadership to city government. Too many projects in District 11 have stalled in the planning phase. We need clear metrics, regular progress updates, and accountability measures to ensure promises become results for residents.

Section III: Public Safety

2. The Atlanta Public Safety Training Center has sparked both support and opposition throughout our city. How do you view the Public Safety Training Center's role in shaping the future of public safety, and how would you ensure it serves the needs of both first responders and the broader community?

The Atlanta Public Safety Training Center should serve as a catalyst for community-centered public safety reform. Instead of viewing this as a divisive issue carrying the "Cop City" moniker, I see an opportunity to bridge gaps between law enforcement and

communities. The facility should include robust community engagement components like neighborhood forums, de-escalation training, and mental health crisis response training. We need transparency in curriculum development and regular community oversight. The center must be a great case example of taking a holistic approach to public safety that addresses root causes while supporting training (EMS, Police, Fire, etc.)

Section IV: Transportation and Infrastructure

3. Traffic congestion, caused by delivery trucks and rideshare vehicles, physically blocks travel lanes on major roads like Peachtree and Piedmont. How can we ensure that this dangerous practice stops?

We need to design loading zones with time restrictions on major roads like Peachtree and Piedmont. Then, we need to leverage technology for monitoring traffic and enforcement.

4. What is your vision for revitalizing the Lindbergh area and addressing the visible blight along Piedmont Road, a key gateway into Buckhead? How would you work with city agencies and law enforcement to improve safety and aesthetics in this high-priority corridor?

The Lindbergh area represents an opportunity to think about smart density leveraging the Lindbergh TAD and proximity to MARTA station to attract mixed-use development with community benefit agreements. We also need to think through pedestrian friendly aesthetic improvements like lighting, landscaping and traffic calming measures that help make this area a desirable destination for families. I'd like to consider the transformation of 2540 and 2562 Piedmont into a pocket park to create safe gathering spaces that can anchor neighborhood activity. High visibility greenspaces can become a catalyst for more economic investment by showing that the area is worth caring about.

5. Buckhead lacks sufficient sidewalk infrastructure, particularly in some residential neighborhoods and near schools, making walking uncomfortable and unsafe for many residents. While progress has been made in the commercial core, large portions of the community remain disconnected. What specific policies or funding strategies would you support to accelerate and incentivize sidewalk construction throughout Buckhead?

The city often focuses on T-SPLOST funds to fund infrastructure projects like sidewalks. An audit released in early 2025 found that the City of Atlanta had spent only 10% of the funds from its 2022 "Moving Atlanta Forward" infrastructure package. We need to review those

funds and ruthlessly prioritize projects existing and new to ensure the city drives the greatest impact. By giving priority to school zones and transit areas, we can generate a data-driven mapping approach to maximize limited resources while implementing RACI charts that drive transparency, accountability, and urgency across priority projects.

Section V: Education - Atlanta Public Schools (APS)

6. Many schools throughout Atlanta are currently facing significant under-enrollment. As part of the ongoing Facilities Master Plan, the APS Board is considering recommendations for school consolidations and redistricting by late 2025. Specifically, APS has circulated a recent plan under community review that outlines various scenarios that could repurpose and consolidate existing facilities. What is your position on potential school closures or consolidations within APS? How do you believe these changes could impact schools in Buckhead, which currently experience some of the highest enrollment levels in the district?

Potential Atlanta school closures disproportionately impact communities that have already faced disinvestment. Before consolidation or re-zoning, we need community input into what the transition plans and long-term (20 year) vision looks like. I'd like to commence a comprehensive study of fringe school districts outside of Buckhead to determine what absorption capacity looks like and develop models for successful integration/dispersion. Whatever the decision, we need to ensure we reduce negative impacts on educational quality (i.e., longer commute times, fewer educational opportunities, insufficient support services).

Section VI: Watershed

7. Considering the recurring and increasingly severe flooding events along Peachtree Creek, what specific policies or infrastructure investments would you advocate for to mitigate future flood risks and protect vulnerable neighborhoods? How will we pay for these?

I want to create designated Greenzones District throughout the city of Atlanta to heighten protections and prioritize investment in key ecological areas where these natural systems converge. These greenzones would receive enhanced environmental protections while serving as priority areas for green infrastructure investment including permeable surfaces, rain gardens, and expanded detention facilities. Funding should come from a combination of watershed improvement bonds, federal infrastructure grants, and stormwater utility fees that are equitable and based on actual runoff contribution.

8. The city has experienced multiple water main breaks and wastewater spills in recent years. What specific policies or oversight mechanisms would you support to prevent future infrastructure failures?

We've faced a similar water infrastructure issue on Cascade Rd. I will work with Watershed to implement predictive maintenance using IoT sensors to quickly identify potential failures. I also want to formally establish an oversight board with quarterly public reporting on infrastructure conditions. Understanding who is Responsible and Accountable as well as you should be Consulted when there are failures/issues. A dashboard based on the recurring reporting keeps us all informed to move forward quickly, as needed.

Section VII: Tree Protection Ordinance (TPO)

9. Buckhead contains the majority of Atlanta's tree canopy and has seen significant community concern regarding the finalized Tree Protection Ordinance (TPO). How would you balance the need for development with the goal of protecting Atlanta's urban forest, especially in rapidly growing neighborhoods? What new policies or solutions, if any, would you support to strengthen the Tree Protection Ordinance (TPO) code enforcement process, currently managed by the Arborist Division within the Department of City Planning?

Returning to those Greenzone Districts I noted earlier, things like Tree protection ordinances would be stronger where environmental sustainability is critical to the ecological landscape. These greenzones are Atlanta's four (4) lungs and we need more scrutiny in how development occurs (source Atlanta City Design Nature study).

- Buckhead Example (Chastain, Blue Heron Preserve, Buckhead Forest)
- Southwest Example (Lionel Hampton, Cascade Preserve, Utoy Creek)

Section VIII: Final Thoughts – How Buckhead can Help the City of Atlanta

10. In what ways can the Buckhead community actively support the priorities you've set for your district or post within the City of Atlanta? Where do you believe Buckhead can have the most meaningful impact in advancing Atlanta's overall growth, prosperity, and quality of life?

Support for the establishment of Greenzone districts impact Buckhead as well as District 11. This sets the stage for a sustainable future the understands the importance of ecological and balances the need for development across the city. This is how we ensure we view quality of life improvements holistically - more resilient to climate change, wild life,



tree and watershed protection, and economic development that make Atlanta the City in the Forest.