

Candidate Questionnaire for Atlanta's 2025 Citywide Elections

Section I: Personal Background and Motivation

- Full Name: Jamie Christy
- Office Sought: Atlanta City Council District 7
- Campaign Website and Social Media Handles: jamiechristy.com

Instagram: jamiechristyatl

Facebook: Jamie Christy for District 7

- Brief Biography (max 250 words):

Born and raised in North Buckhead, I have always believed in the power of community, leadership, and service. I graduated from The Westminster Schools in 2013. I am a longtime Dynamo Swim Club athlete and competed at the national level and later swam on scholarship at the University of Southern California. There I launched a swim program teaching water safety to over 100 underprivileged children. I graduated cum laude from USC with a degree in Psychology and a minor in French and earned my law degree at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

At law school, I was recognized for the most volunteer service hours in my class. My legal career reflects my commitment to advocacy and fairness. I have mediated hundreds of cases for underserved citizens, worked at the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, and currently practice business litigation at Schreeder, Wheeler & Flint, LLP in Midtown. I am barred in California, Georgia, and Florida. In 2020, I returned home to Buckhead. Concerned over rising crime in Atlanta, I worked as the Buckhead Public Safety Investigator under retiring Councilman Howard Shook. I also have served in leadership roles with the Young Lawyers Association and with a local young profession group. Keeping neighborhood safety front and center is important to me, particularly as a homeowner in District 7. I continue to swim competitively, most recently at the Masters World Championships in Doha. I am a self-professed foodie and love cooking and exploring Atlanta's restaurant scene. My family lives in Buckhead as well so I am able to spend

time with them and our dog, Friday. I am proud to call Buckhead home and am ready to be a strong voice for District 7.

Section II: Priorities

1. What are your top three priorities if elected?

First, I will take steps to reduce crime in District 7 by ensuring the Buckhead Precinct is fully staffed. I also work toward strengthening APD recruitment. I will advocate for mentorship programs connecting APD with local high school and college students who are interested in serving Atlanta in this capacity. I will also work with the other councilmembers to lower the length of service from thirty (30) to twenty-five (25) years. Lowering the length of service not only improves each officer's mental health, but makes Atlanta more competitive with its neighboring cities. Right now, APD's benefits are not competitive with other cities, meaning that younger officers leave to serve elsewhere because of the lower service years. If Atlanta can offer more attractive benefits—like reducing the service years—we can retain talent and reach the City's goal of 2,000 sworn police officers.

Second, I will advocate for transparency in the City's taxation and spending. Any City agency receiving funds and any vendors doing business with the City must provide quarterly budget and performance reports. Taxpayers deserve to know how their dollars are spent. I will also fight to cap and, when possible, reduce property taxes for seniors and long-time homeowners. I will also explore penalties for City agencies that go over budget because taxpayers should not be punished by paying more taxes to cover a cost overrun or deficit because an agency cannot manage its finances appropriately.

Third, I will promote responsible development in District 7 and across the City. Any development must respect the neighborhood's character. Developers will be required to provide added value community benefits such as green space, sidewalks, traffic lights, or affordable housing, so that tax payers are not called upon to fund vital improvements.

Above all, my priority is listening and then advocating. Leadership means listening to constituents and collaborating with fellow councilmembers to deliver results for District 7.

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?

I believe this state-of-the-art training facility is a game changer for public safety. It equips first responders with cutting-edge techniques and immersive, real-world simulations that prepare them for high-pressure situations. This kind of world-class training not only helps retain the dedicated responders we already have but will attract new recruits who want to serve and protect Atlanta. The facility also makes continuing education easier to complete and ensures our first responders stay sharp, safe, and ready. The Citizen's Police Academy could also host sessions there, building trust between APD and the community, which has been lacking. When elected, I intend to push for a certification program at the Center for junior and senior high school students and college students who are interested in these professions. If we create a program that gives the opportunity to young people to serve, we engage them early which helps them and provides a steady flow of future talent into our short-staffed first responder professions. Giving young people a fast track into careers as first responders will inspire the next generation, strengthen recruitment, and ensure Atlanta's future is protected.

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?

To eliminate blocked lanes, I will propose that ATLDOT partner with rideshare companies to create geo-fenced pick-up and drop-off zones at Buckhead's busiest venues based on the successful model at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. ATLDOT also should coordinate with Google Maps, Apple Maps, and other navigation systems so drivers are directed straight to these zones. For new

construction, my plan will be for the City to require dedicated pull-off lanes for deliveries to keep trucks out of traffic. Posted restricted delivery hours can further ease congestion during peak times. We will need to pass an ordinance setting the delivery hours with guidelines for businesses to affect this change.

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?

My vision for revitalizing the Lindbergh area begins with reducing and preventing crime. If people do not feel safe, they will not visit, and developers will avoid investing along Piedmont Road through the Lindbergh area. I will advocate for an additional police precinct near Lindbergh to deter crime. As a suggestion, APD could partner with MARTA to enhance safety for the Lindbergh MARTA station. The Lindbergh area holds strong potential. With HUB404 in progress, the Lindbergh MARTA station should become the next focal point of revitalization. Lindbergh Road links District 7 to District 6 and connects directly to Peachtree Hills and the vibrant Peachtree Battle area. I will research establishing a Lindbergh Tax Allocation District that could provide sustainable funding for development in conjunction with Buckhead CID and Livable Buckhead. Beyond safety, the area needs visual improvements. Many buildings along Piedmont are eyesores. I will request a task force be formed to work with Atlanta's Code Enforcement to require property owners to clean up and maintain all properties in the area. Tax incentives for owners to dedicate or develop a portion of their properties into green space could immediately change the character of this travel corridor. Buckhead CID may be able to attract developers interested in creating mixed-use developments to provide affordable workforce housing near on Piedmont near Lindbergh. These developments would allow residents to use MARTA with ease rather than driving through congested Buckhead. I will promote streetscape improvements that will further boost appeal. By requiring added-value elements in new development projects, resources will be available for the City to fund trees, lighting, and landscaped medians along Piedmont from Peachtree to Lindbergh, transforming it into a welcoming boulevard.

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?

A key part of Atlanta's vision is connecting neighborhoods across the City. The City has made tremendous progress in this area, but one of the most important connection needs from homes to schools. That's why I support a policy to install sidewalks at every school to ensure the safety of children and families who walk to and from school in Buckhead and across the City. The abrupt ending of sidewalks near Sarah Smith Elementary on Old Ivy Road, a dangerous, high-traffic street, highlights the urgency for these improvements. Funding for school sidewalks can come from impact fees and community grants. With regard to high-traffic pedestrian areas currently lacking sidewalks, these sidewalks can be installed and funded by requiring all new commercial and residential construction and renovation to include sidewalks in front of the new construction and extending a number of yards past the construction. The City's zoning department and ATL DOT will need to coordinate to determine how far each sidewalk should extend. I believe sidewalks are essential infrastructure for safety, mobility, and quality of life.

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?

Any decision on school closures or consolidations should never be rushed or based on limited data. These choices have long-term consequences for families, teachers, and neighborhoods, and they must be backed by careful studies and community input. In District 7 and Buckhead, closures will disrupt families and undermine neighborhoods by repurposing schools away from their intended use. If closures do occur, I believe those facilities should remain within the school system to be used for after-school programs, tutoring, enrichment, tutoring centers, or partnerships with local colleges. We also must consider teachers who are employed at the schools to be closed.

APS must provide opportunities for these educators to be retained by APS. In Buckhead, our schools have high enrollment and are community anchors. Consolidating Jackson Elementary with Brandon Morris Elementary could increase classroom size that could reduce quality instruction and create a strain on teachers. Schools are the heart of the Buckhead neighborhoods. APS's decision to close certain locations should be challenged until additional information is obtained on the full community impact, which includes economic and psychological impacts. I cannot support any closures or consolidations without further study, transparent data, and a plan that protects teachers, families, and neighborhoods.

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?

Flooding along Peachtree Creek is a growing crisis, and we need immediate action to protect our affected neighborhoods. To help reduce flooding, I will push for stronger construction runoff standards that mandate proven stormwater controls such as layered silt fencing and installation of natural runoff barriers. Constructing dry creek beds and planting green infrastructure to slow and divert water along the creek can help to slow and divert water before it overwhelms homes and streets. We also need to increase sewer capacity wherever possible so the system can handle heavier rains and prevent backups that make flooding even worse. All improvements cost money and developers in the Peachtree Creek corridor can provide funding for these improvements. I will support a runoff impact fee for any development in the Peachtree Creek corridor. These funds can be reinvested directly into flood mitigation projects from upgrading drainage and expanding sewer lines to installing green buffers that naturally absorb stormwater. Working with the City's Watershed Management, we can protect these vulnerable neighborhoods by reducing flood risk.

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?

Atlanta cannot afford to continue its reactionary approach to water main breaks and wastewater spills. We need a proactive plan. I believe the first step in a plan is to map the entire water and

sewer system to determine the condition of each water and sewer line. A review of the mapping will allow us to prioritize repairs and replacements where the needs are greatest. We can develop and then follow a long-term schedule for repair and replacement across District 7 and the City. Strong oversight will be necessary to ensure timely compliance with the plan. I propose creating an independent oversight committee consisting of engineers, neighborhood representatives, and financial experts to track maintenance, spending, and progress on repairs. This ensures transparency for residents and holds the City accountable.

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?

The new Tree Protection Ordinance included some necessary fines and changes, but I do not think the ordinance went far enough. We need an ordinance with real teeth. Currently, the fines remain too low which do not promote compliance. If a tree is removed without approval, the responsible party should pay the full cost of replanting trees of similar size, not just a token fine. Replanting costs are often higher than the current fines, which makes this approach a true deterrent. If the party responsible for the fines does not pay them, the consequence will be pulling the permit and halting the construction. The City can work with private organizations to replant the trees at the conclusion of the development to re-establish the character of the neighborhood and help with runoff. Also, the recompense cap must be eliminated so that accountability is assured at every level. Protecting the tree canopy is critical in protecting Atlanta's air quality and livability. These strategies will deter tree removal without approval or choosing to remove trees simply because removal is easier than building with care.

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?

The most important way Buckhead can support my priorities is through direct communication. Leadership is a loop that works only when my constituents talk to me so that I can respond to their issues. When elected, I will host a monthly Saturday in-person session open to all District 7 residents and will respond to calls and emails within 24 hours, sooner if urgent. Transparency and communication build trust and trust is the cornerstone of effective leadership. I will develop this same level of trust with each person on City Council. Further, I will meet with the Buckhead leaders to establish a relationship that will benefit District 7, Buckhead, and the City as a whole. We thrive together!

Buckhead can be the blueprint for Atlanta's future. If we re-imagine and revamp the blighted and high crime Piedmont road corridor along with the Lindbergh/Morosgo area into a desired neighborhood in District 7, the City can use this model to revamp other neighborhoods across the City that are in similar situations. Beginning with crime reduction and moving toward economic development, District 7 can open the door to new jobs, stronger businesses, and greater prosperity for Buckhead residents and those who work here.