

## Candidate Questionnaire for Atlanta's 2025 Citywide Elections

### Section I: Personal Background and Motivation

- Full Name: Rebecca King
- Office Sought: Atlanta City Council District 7
- Campaign Website and Social Media Handles:

[www.VoteRebeccaKing.com](http://www.VoteRebeccaKing.com)

<https://www.instagram.com/rebeccaforatlanta>

<https://www.facebook.com/RebeccaForATL>

Brief Biography (max 250 words):

Rebecca King has called Atlanta home for decades, dedicating her time and energy to strengthening neighborhoods, improving public safety, and enhancing the quality of life in Buckhead. She currently leads as President of the Buckhead Condo Alliance, where she has worked directly with residents to solve everyday community challenges.

Rebecca has served as a Business Representative and recent past Chair of NPU-B, bringing a strong voice for local businesses and residents alike. As HOA President at Paramount at Buckhead, she managed budgets responsibly, addressed resident concerns and built a stronger, more connected community. Her leadership extends to past Board member of Livable Buckhead, the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board, and other civic and nonprofit organizations where she has consistently put community first.

Beyond her neighborhood advocacy, Rebecca has fought for meaningful change—lobbying the Georgia Legislature on behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Georgia to legalize medical CBD oil and working with Congress on fraternity and sorority safety legislation, including the End All Hazing and REACH Acts.

Drawing from her background in education, insurance, and entrepreneurship, Rebecca brings a practical and well-rounded perspective to problem-solving. She is also the founder of *Cover Your Assets™, Inc.*, a consulting firm that helps families and businesses prepare for the unexpected through property documentation and disaster readiness.

Rebecca lives in North Buckhead with her husband and daughter. Away from her community work, she enjoys golf, horseback riding, running, and spending time outdoors.

## **Section II: Priorities**

1. What are your top three priorities if elected?
  - a. Public Safety
  - b. Infrastructure
  - c. Quality of Life in Buckhead

## **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?

As a contract employee who actively fundraised for the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center, I am deeply invested in its success and the benefits it brings both to our community and to the broader mission of maintaining public safety in our city. The Training Center plays a vital role in shaping the future of public safety by providing state-of-the-art resources and training that directly enhance the capabilities and morale of our first responders.

Beyond the clear cost benefits and savings it generates for the city, the Training Center acts as a significant morale booster for those who serve on the front lines, ensuring they are better prepared and more confident in their critical roles. Additionally, hosting major events—including being on the international stage for FIFA—positions Atlanta as a model of safety and preparedness. This not only promotes our city's reputation worldwide but also has tangible benefits, such as reducing insurance costs by maintaining a consistently safe environment.

To ensure the Training Center continues to serve both first responders and the broader community effectively, it is essential to maintain open communication with all stakeholders, prioritize ongoing training that reflects evolving safety needs, and support initiatives that foster community trust and collaboration. By doing so, the facility will remain a cornerstone for both public safety excellence and community well-being.

## **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?

effectively, ultimately ensuring safer and more efficient roadways for all users.

### 1. **Bicycle Police Patrols:**

- **Deployment:** Increase the number of bicycle police officers specifically assigned to monitor congested areas like Peachtree and Piedmont. These officers can quickly navigate through traffic and keep a visible presence, which serves as a deterrent.
- **Constant Surveillance:** Officers should patrol consistently, especially during peak delivery hours (e.g., lunch, dinner times, or busy shopping seasons) when congestion is likely to peak.
- **Quick Response:** By utilizing bicycles, police officers can respond more quickly to vehicles violating parking and stopping regulations, issuing citations in real-time.

### 2. **Enforcement of Strict Regulations on Parking and Stopping Areas:**

- **No-Stopping Zones:** Establish clear no-stopping zones in high-traffic areas and enforce these zones rigorously, especially for delivery trucks and rideshare vehicles. These areas should be monitored with cameras and frequent police patrols.
- **Time-Sensitive Regulations:** Create time-bound delivery windows to reduce the overall impact on peak traffic hours. Deliveries outside these hours can face fines or be redirected to a designated loading zone.
- **Towing for Violations:** Enforce strict towing policies for vehicles that obstruct major roads or block travel lanes, especially during peak hours.

### 3. **Designated Loading Zones:**

- **Clear Designation:** Create dedicated and strategically located loading zones in high-density areas, particularly near commercial buildings or retail spaces. These zones should be strictly reserved for delivery trucks to load and unload without blocking traffic lanes.
- **Zoning for New Developments:** New buildings or developments should be required to incorporate delivery-specific zones or staging areas in their design to avoid placing unnecessary burdens on already congested streets.

### 4. **Citations for Delivery Companies and Recipients:**

- **Dual Accountability:** If a delivery vehicle is caught blocking traffic or violating parking regulations, both the delivery company and the recipient of the item should be issued citations.
- **Delivery Company Fines:** Hold delivery companies responsible for training their drivers to follow traffic laws and use designated loading zones. These companies should face escalating fines for repeated violations.
- **Recipient Accountability:** In cases where the recipient requested the delivery, they could also be held accountable, especially for businesses that repeatedly cause traffic disruptions.

#### **5. Turnaround or Pass-Through Lanes for Deliveries:**

- **Specialized Lanes for Deliveries:** Develop turnaround or pass-through lanes specifically for deliveries in new developments or high-traffic areas. These lanes would allow delivery trucks to pull off the main road to conduct deliveries without blocking traffic flow.
- **Mandatory for New Developments:** Make it a requirement for all new commercial or residential developments to include these specialized lanes or easily accessible areas for deliveries. This will ensure better flow and minimize obstruction in areas that are already prone to traffic congestion.
- **Dedicated Routes for Larger Deliveries:** For larger trucks (e.g., freight delivery), designate specific routes to reduce their impact on daily traffic and prevent them from entering areas with dense pedestrian or vehicle traffic.

#### **6. Incentives for Efficient Delivery Practices:**

- **Incentivizing Technology:** Encourage the use of technology that helps delivery companies optimize routes and minimize the time spent in high-congestion areas. Some cities are already experimenting with “smart” parking systems or routing apps for delivery trucks that automatically redirect them to designated zones.

#### **7. Public Education and Awareness:**

- **Awareness Campaigns:** Launch public awareness campaigns informing both residents and businesses about the impact of delivery traffic and the importance of using designated zones and following regulations.

- **Signage and Clear Communication:** Ensure that clear signage is posted for delivery vehicles to follow, highlighting designated loading zones, time limits, and specific rules that apply to commercial deliveries.

By combining strict enforcement, dedicated infrastructure, and public education, the issue of delivery-related traffic congestion can be managed more effectively, ultimately ensuring safer and more efficient roadways for all users.

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?

**1. Divide the Piedmont Road Corridor into sections aligned with Neighborhood Associations** or stakeholder groups.

**2. Utilize Invest Atlanta and Fulton County Development Authority to create a Public-Private Partnership.** By leveraging the resources and expertise of Invest Atlanta, they can help attract investment and secure funding for revitalization projects. The property owner would be informed of grants, tax incentives, and development tools that make revitalization projects financially manageable. Fulton County Development Authority could be another entity to help with necessary funding and resources.

**3. Address Blighted Properties and Create Development Timelines by using Livable Buckhead and the Development Review Committee of the SPI overlays to chair the property identification and assessment of blighted properties** along Piedmont Road. The committee can establish clear timeframes for when development should begin, ensuring that there are both short-term and long-term plans.

**4. Enforce Codes for Vacant Property Maintenance:**

- Regular Inspections:** Set up a system for routine inspections of vacant properties by city officials, focusing on identifying fire hazards, structural issues, and general neglect. These inspections should prioritize properties that have been vacant for extended periods.
- Penalties for Non-Compliance:** Implement fines or other penalties for property owners who fail to meet basic maintenance standards. These fines would escalate if the property

continues to deteriorate, offering an incentive for owners to maintain their properties proactively.

☐ **Public Safety:** In cases where vacant properties pose immediate public safety risks—such as being a fire hazard—work with the Atlanta Fire Department and building inspectors to secure the property and ensure that it is cordoned off for safety.

**Financial Support for Maintenance:** Use resources from Invest Atlanta to provide grants, low-interest loans, or tax incentives for property owners who may not have the financial means to keep their properties up to code. This can make it easier for owners to invest in necessary repairs and maintenance.

**Beautification Projects:** Partner with Keep Atlanta Beautiful, Garden Clubs of Georgia and the neighborhood associations to create beautification projects, such as landscaping, murals, and art installations that promote a positive image of the neighborhood and make the area more attractive to both residents and visitors.

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?

To address the lack of sufficient sidewalk infrastructure in Buckhead, particularly in residential neighborhoods and near schools, it's important to create a comprehensive approach that combines policy changes, funding strategies, and long-term maintenance plans. Below is a comprehensive plan that addresses short term financing and long term maintenance.

### **1. Develop a Tiered Impact Fee for Sidewalk Construction and needed road construction:**

- **Tiered Impact Fees:** Implement a tiered impact fee structure that is based on the size and value of properties or the scale of developments in Buckhead. This impact fee would be paid every time a building is sold, providing a consistent and growing source of funding for sidewalk and road construction.
- **Distribution of Funds:** These funds should be divided among the neighborhoods based on the areas with the greatest need for sidewalk infrastructure. Prioritize

schools such as North Atlanta that has for years needed a sidewalk, high-density residential areas, and commercial zones that lack safe walking routes.

- **Neighborhood-Specific Allocation:** Ensure the funds are used where they are most needed, focusing on connecting residential areas to commercial centers and key public places like schools, parks, and transit stations such as the North Buckhead Civic Association’s Signature Streets Plan.
- **Transparent Usage of Funds:** Establish a public-facing fund tracking system so that residents can see how the fees are being used and where new sidewalks are being built. This will increase accountability and transparency, making the process more inclusive.

## **2. Utility Companies’ Role in Sidewalk Construction:**

- **Coordinate Utility Maintenance:** Utility companies should take responsibility for maintaining, repairing, and monitoring utility covers (like manhole covers) and utility lines in the public right-of-way. Ensuring that these covers are safe and even with the sidewalk is essential for both pedestrians and people using mobility aids.
  - **No Obstructions:** Require utility companies and construction companies to keep sidewalks clear of obstructions from utility equipment or maintenance issues.
  - **Scheduled Maintenance:** Encourage utility companies to work on preventative measures to ensure that their equipment doesn’t interfere with the walkability of sidewalks. This can include regular inspections and timely repairs to prevent long-term damage.
- **Collaboration Between City and Utility Providers:** Work with utility companies to align sidewalk construction and repairs with infrastructure maintenance schedules. By coordinating, utilities can avoid damaging new sidewalks or creating safety hazards, which reduces future repair costs and disruptions.

## **3. Prioritize Sidewalk Construction Near Schools and High-Traffic Areas:**

- **School Safety Zones:** Prioritize the construction of sidewalks around schools, ensuring that students have safe walking routes to and from school. This can be part of a broader “Safe Routes to School” initiative that also includes traffic calming measures and pedestrian-friendly crosswalks. Activating these areas as will

happen with the Bike Bus on September 26<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with the Atlanta Regional Commission, Livable Buckhead and Sarah Smith Schools will highlight the need for passable and safe sidewalks.

- **Connect Residential to Commercial:** Focus on areas where residential neighborhoods are disconnected from commercial centers, parks, and transit stations. Providing sidewalks to these areas will encourage walking and reduce dependence on cars, ultimately easing congestion and improving the quality of life.

#### **5. Leverage State and Federal Funding for Sidewalks:**

- **Apply for Grants:** Actively seek state and federal funds dedicated to transportation and infrastructure improvements. Programs like the **Safe Routes to School** initiative or **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)** can help fund sidewalk construction projects.
- **Matching Funds:** Set up a matching fund program where the city can use impact fees as part of the local contribution to secure larger state or federal grants. This can significantly expand the budget for sidewalk construction projects.

#### **6. Long-Term Maintenance and Monitoring:**

- **Maintenance Fund:** Create a dedicated sidewalk maintenance fund, partially funded by the same impact fees, to ensure that sidewalks remain in good condition over time. This could cover things like resurfacing, repairing cracks, and replacing broken curbs.

### **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?

I am not in favor of closing any Buckhead Public Schools and schools in any other part of the Atlanta Public School system at this time. There needs to be further analysis and more

community engagement. For Buckhead specifically several multifamily towers and residential developments are currently in the pipeline for Buckhead, the area is expected to experience population growth. The comprehensive development plan indicates multiple growth corridors. This growth will likely lead to a higher demand for public school enrollment. Closing schools in Buckhead that are close to capacity is shortsighted because it ignores the long-term trend of population expansion instead of only using the birthrate metric, which will only further strain already high-enrollment schools. North Atlanta for example is in dire need of another cafeteria, yet, it is targeted to increase capacity and expand the border to draw attendance. Neighborhood schools are more than just educational institutions; they are central to the community's fabric. They foster local pride, support family engagement, and provide stability for students. Closing neighborhood schools would have the most significant negative impact on vulnerable populations. Families with limited transportation options, lower-income households, and students with special needs could be disproportionately affected. For these families, the additional burden of long bus rides to schools far from home could disrupt their lives, limit their participation in after-school activities such as sports, music or academic clubs and undermine their access to quality education.

## **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?

**Modernizing Stormwater Management Systems** is imperative as expeditiously as possible as many of the stormwater management systems in Atlanta, particularly in older areas like those around Peachtree Creek, are outdated and not designed to handle the volume of water that modern rainfall events bring. A significant investment should be made to update and expand these systems. Some of these policies are active, yet need to be enhanced. The infrastructure cannot continue to be ignored. Developing a community and neighborhood plan around Peachtree Creek that addresses these opportunities could result in less flooding.

1. **Upgrading Drainage Pipes:** Replace or expand old drainage pipes to increase capacity and reduce the risk of backups or overflows.

2. **Increasing Stormwater Basins:** Where appropriate, develop or enhance stormwater retention and detention basins along key areas of Peachtree Creek to store runoff water during heavy rains.
3. **Installing Green Infrastructure:** Implement green infrastructure solutions such as bioswales, permeable pavements, and rain gardens to absorb excess water and slow down runoff. This helps reduce the amount of water flowing directly into Peachtree Creek.
4. **Floodgates and Barriers:** Consider the installation of flood barriers or floodgates in critical areas where water frequently overflows onto streets and residential properties. These measures could prevent floodwaters from damaging property and disrupting communities.

Prioritizing infrastructure in the City of Atlanta's budget is key to ensuring long-term resilience against flooding and other urban challenges. The budget should maintain a **dedicated infrastructure line** specifically for flood mitigation and infrastructure upgrades. By earmarking funds for this purpose, the city ensures that resources are consistently allocated to addressing issues like stormwater management, aging infrastructure, and floodplain restoration. Developments and zoning changes should have a flood mitigation plan before approval by Neighborhood Planning units and the Development Review Committee. Partnering with the National Flood Insurance Program and FEMA to update Community Rating Systems and to address development that can potentially cause more water runoff during high rain events. By adding a fee to flood insurance policies, infrastructure that has been untouched for years can be updated to prevent potential loss of life and property.

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?

This answer is similarly tied to number 7 but can be tweaked to address infrastructure of water mains and additional piping that have been neglected for years. A dedicated line item in the city of Atlanta budget to address these water system failures at the same time moving forward with additional funding from a fee on insurance policies that are in force (PIF) and a revolving impact fee that addresses both watershed and water main breaks. The PIF rate can be determined through the Georgia Department of Insurance.

## **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?

**1. Specialized Training for Weekend Officers:**

- Increase arborist/division staff and educating presence specifically on weekends when many code enforcement illegal tree removals occur.

**2. Specialized Training for Weekend Officers:**

- Provide targeted education for weekend code enforcement officers/arborists on identifying illegal clear-cutting and understanding the nuances of tree protection law.

**3. Penalizing Business Licenses:**

- Since tree removal fees are capped by state law, explore leveraging **business licensing penalties** for repeat offenders or suspending or revoke business licenses for companies that violate the TPO repeatedly.

**4. Utilize Administrative Approvals:**

- Work with developers to offer incentives to maintain the tree canopy instead of clear cutting by offering additional tax incentives or variances to work around tree canopies that are integral to the neighborhood character and are not overly obtrusive to setbacks.

**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 Buckhead community can actively support citywide priorities by collaborating with sister NPUs and similarly situated neighborhoods to share best practices and promote



mutual understanding. By visiting and engaging with other communities, Buckhead can demonstrate how it operates effectively while also learning from the challenges and successes of others across Atlanta.