



## Candidate Questionnaire for Atlanta's 2025 Citywide Elections

### Section I: Personal Background and Motivation

- Full Name: Marci Collier Overstreet
- Office Sought: Atlanta City Council President
- Campaign Website and Social Media Handles: [www.voteoverstreet.com](http://www.voteoverstreet.com) and @marcioverstreet

Brief Biography (max 250 words):

As a lifelong Atlantan, I've served on Council for nearly a decade. I love Atlanta and I have deep roots across the city. I graduated from Benjamin E. Mays High School and Georgia State University, raised my family here, and remain committed to shaping Atlanta's future. I'm running for Atlanta City Council President to provide experienced, people-focused leadership. During my two terms on Council, I've worked alongside neighbors, community leaders, and city officials to strengthen Southwest Atlanta and to make our entire city safer, more equitable, and more vibrant.

From expanding access to fresh food and affordable housing, to investing in infrastructure, public safety, and senior services, I've seen firsthand how thoughtful legislation, effective policy measures, and responsive leadership can change lives. As Council President, I will bring that same energy, focus, and commitment citywide – ensuring every neighborhood has a voice at the table and benefits from Atlanta's growth while retaining the fabric and uniqueness of Atlanta.

With more than 30 years of service and civic leadership, I am ready to serve as Council President from day one. I have also served on several council committees. I served as the Chair of the Zoning Committee and Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee for the past eight years. My leadership has been shaped by the many prominent organizations I have served in, including:

- Board of Directors, Atlanta Region Transit Authority (through the State of Georgia)
- Atlanta Commission on Women
- City of Atlanta Pension Trust Board
- Auxiliary to the Atlanta Medical Association
- Fulton County Core Services and Governance Task Force
- Andrew and Walter Young Family YMCA

- League of Women Voters
- Council of Negro Women of Greater Atlanta
- The Links, Incorporated
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

## **Section II: Priorities**

1. What are your top three priorities if elected?

As Council President, my top three priorities are to continue to enhance public safety and community well-being, advance transportation infrastructure, and promote economic mobility. I am committed to working collaboratively with my council colleagues and establishing a robust council agenda focused on fostering a stronger, safer, and more interconnected Atlanta.

My approach will include:

- Supporting a holistic public safety approach and community well-being by providing first responders with the training, equipment and resources needed, investing in youth programs, adopting data-driven solutions and technologies, and enhancing community-policing strategies.
- Upgrading transportation and infrastructure by ensuring city department leaders are accountable for delivering projects as promised—on schedule and within budget—so residents have dependable options whether driving, walking, biking, or utilizing public transit.
- Increasing affordable housing throughout all neighborhoods by utilizing public housing bonds and Council-approved housing trust funds that I've co-sponsored, providing every family the opportunity to establish lasting roots in our city.
- Upholding government transparency and accountability to ensure City Hall decisions align with the voices and needs of our communities, including advocating for community benefits agreements.
- Supporting seniors and families by continuing investment in resources that enable individuals of all ages to flourish within their communities.

## **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 public safety is paramount to a thriving city. I view the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center as a critical investment in the future of public safety. It provides first responders with the training, resources, technologies, and professional development needed to respond effectively and safely to emergencies across our city.

At the same time, I understand community concerns about accountability and transparency. As Council President, I would ensure the center serves both officers and residents by promoting evidence-based training, emphasizing de-escalation and community engagement, and fostering partnerships with neighborhood groups, nonprofits, and schools.

As a current Councilmember, I championed the investment in the center because it focuses on training, strengthens staffing, recruitment, preparedness, and operational readiness, while also creating opportunities for ongoing dialogue between law enforcement and the communities they serve. A well-trained, professional public safety workforce benefits everyone, and by aligning robust training with community collaboration, we can build safer neighborhoods, improved responsiveness, stronger trust, and a city where residents and first responders alike feel supported and 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?

Traffic congestion from delivery trucks and rideshare vehicles on major roads like Peachtree and Piedmont is dangerous and causes unnecessary bottlenecks. Across the city, we need city leaders to improve curbside management. To address this, we need smart, enforceable solutions that balance business needs with safety and mobility for all.

As Council President, I would work with ATL DOT, GDOT, and public safety agencies to increase enforcement of no-parking and lane-blocking rules, especially during peak hours. I would work with community improvement districts, such as Buckhead CID, and rideshare companies to explore designated loading zones, off-peak delivery programs, and partnerships with businesses to reduce street congestion. Public education campaigns can reinforce the dangers of blocking lanes and enforce proper curbside management. I would also consider creating a study committee to audit the enforcement of having proper lane closure permits for planned development and construction work.

Ultimately, solving this problem is about safety, efficiency, and accountability. By providing clear rules, strategic planning, and enforcement, we can keep traffic moving, reduce hazards, and make Atlanta streets safer for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and first responders alike.

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?

I feel it paramount that we elevate enforcement of ordinances that are already in our city code. As Council President, I would work closely with city agencies, code enforcement, and Invest Atlanta to address blight, provide resources for small businesses, and encourage redevelopment that strengthens the local economy while keeping the corridor accessible and inviting. I would advocate for expanding quality, public spaces and infrastructure, like the Confluence Trail, Cheshire Farm Trail, PATH 400, and Northeast Beltline Trail, which will give residents safe areas for recreation, walking, biking, and connectivity.

Community engagement will be central: from streetscape improvements, lighting, landscaping, and public art to thoughtful zoning and economic incentives, Buckhead neighbors will have a voice in shaping their environment. By combining enforcement, strategic investment, support for small businesses, and enhanced public spaces, we can make Lindbergh and Piedmont Road a corridor that reflects the best of Atlanta for all who live, work, and travel through it.

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?

As a sitting Councilmember I have observed that this is a city-wide problem, which is why I authored the citywide sidewalk study, and will continue to support incentivizing sidewalk construction throughout Buckhead.

Buckhead's lack of consistent sidewalk infrastructure is a safety and accessibility issue, especially around vital community assets, such as schools. While progress has been made in the commercial core, many neighborhoods remain disconnected and unsafe.

As Council President, I would prioritize accelerated sidewalk construction by working with city agencies to identify critical gaps near schools, parks, and high-traffic areas. On Council, I advocated and co-sponsored legislation that transformed Cascade and Campbellton Parkway into complete streets, ensuring these major corridors received improved sidewalks, traffic circulation, and public spaces. As Council President, I would take this same energy citywide. For example, I would review programs like Moving Atlanta Forward and More MARTA to expedite delivery of promised sidewalks and public infrastructure projects. Funding strategies would include capital improvement budgets, dedicated trails funding, public-private partnerships, and existing public bonds. Community input would guide planning to ensure solutions meet residents' needs and ensure Buckhead's streets are safer, more walkable, and better connected for all residents.

## **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?

Decisions regarding school closures and consolidations demand careful consideration of efficiency, enrollment patterns, and community impact. While some facilities contend with under-enrollment, Buckhead-area schools often experience significant demand. Any proposed changes would need to strengthen public school access, quality, and neighborhood stability.

As a parent, I strongly endorse increased investment in the APS system. Public education forms the foundation of our communities and is essential for promoting opportunity and equity. As Council President, I am committed to working with APS leaders and supporting transparent, community-led planning processes that ensure the active involvement of parents, educators, and residents. In general, I will collaborate closely with APS leadership to advocate for enhanced resources, modernized facilities, competitive teacher compensation, and expanded programs.

Any consolidation or redistricting measures should prioritize equitable access to education, enabling high-demand schools like those in Buckhead to serve students effectively without overcrowding or diminished resources. For schools that APS decides to close, I would advocate repurposing them as community centers, early learning hubs, or recreational spaces, rather than allowing them to remain vacant. On Council, I have championed initiatives that fund recreation and after-school programs, ensuring students have safe and enriching environments. I will continue working alongside Mayor Dickens to advance Atlanta's standing as the premier city in America for raising children.

## **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?

Recurring flooding along Peachtree Creek is a serious threat to vulnerable neighborhoods, homes, and businesses, and addressing it must be a top priority. As Council President, I would advocate for a multi-pronged approach, including

infrastructure upgrades, environmental restoration, and community resilience programs. For example, I would support increasing funding for green infrastructure projects and expanding our tree canopy and existing tree protections. Key policies include upgrading stormwater systems, restoring wetlands and creek buffers, and implementing stormwater management solutions like rain gardens and permeable surfaces to absorb runoff. These efforts require coordination of key city agencies such as ADOT, Watershed Management, and Parks & Recreation to leverage existing funding. I would work with city leaders to explore a mix of funding solutions, including federal and state grants, capital improvement budgets, and targeted stormwater fees. Through investments in modern infrastructure, sustainability solutions, and community preparedness, we can reduce flood risks, protect neighborhoods, and build a more resilient Atlanta.

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's failure in our water system was unacceptable – especially in the lack of communications of the challenges and timeline for repairs. Individuals went without water and businesses lost revenue due to not being able to operate without water. To meet Atlanta's demand for growth and opportunities, we must invest in our water resiliency.

As Council President, I will champion a comprehensive approach to modernize our water system. First, we need targeted capital investments to replace aging pipes, upgrade water treatment facilities, and expand emergency-drinking water supply. Second, we need to invest in an early-warning detection system -- leveraging smart technology and data-driven solutions to identify leaks and preventative maintenance. Third, we should continue to invest in our public green spaces, green infrastructure, and stormwater mitigation efforts like Shirley Franklin Park, Cook Park, and Old Fourth Ward Park.

I will work with the Mayor to find innovative funding sources or leveraging bond opportunities to finance the needed investments in our water system.

## **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?

Atlanta’s tree canopy is one of our greatest city assets, and the Buckhead community contributes to our long-term vibrancy as a “city in the forest.” Our tree canopy must be protected, even as our city grows. Balancing development with preservation requires thoughtful planning and strong enforcement.

As Council President, I would continue my work from Council to strengthen tree protections. I’ve supported policies that increased penalties for illegal tree removal, expanded public education about urban forestry, and incentivized developers to integrate green spaces and stormwater management into their projects.

I would further support the Tree Protection Ordinance by ensuring the Arborist Division has the resources for inspections and enforcement, requiring replacement planting when trees are removed, and integrating tree preservation into permitting and zoning. Community input would guide planning decisions while allowing responsible, sustainable growth across rapidly developing neighborhoods.

### **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?

Buckhead is an anchor of the Atlanta community, and its success drives the success of the entire city. By demonstrating leadership in job creation, economic development, sustainable public investments, and world-class amenities, Buckhead sets the standard for growth and quality of life across Atlanta.



Residents, businesses, and neighborhood associations can actively support these priorities by engaging in public meetings, shaping development projects, and partnering on initiatives such as policy rewrites, public safety programs, and expanded mobility options. Buckhead can have the most meaningful impact by continuing to lead responsible growth, supporting small businesses, preserving our urban forest, and advocating for equitable housing and partnering with Atlanta's diverse neighborhoods on implementing best practices and strategies.

When Buckhead thrives, the benefits extend citywide—creating jobs, strengthening neighborhoods, and attracting investment. By working together with city leadership and investing in community-driven solutions, Buckhead can continue to serve as a model for Atlanta, ensuring our city remains vibrant, connected, and prosperous for all residents.

I know firsthand, that for eight years, the Buckhead Coalition has been a strong partner to the City and a champion of their community, and as Council President I welcome that continued, open dialogue.