



Candidate Questionnaire for Atlanta's 2025 Citywide Elections

Section I: Personal Background and Motivation

- Full Name: Alex Wan
- Office Sought: Atlanta City Council District 6
- Campaign Website and Social Media Handles:

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Brief Biography (max 250 words):

Alex Wan has represented the in-town neighborhoods of District 6 on the Atlanta City Council for three terms (2010-2018 and 2022-present). He currently serves on the board of directors of the Piedmont Park Conservancy and the Atlanta-Region Transit Link (ATL) Authority and previously served on the boards of Atlanta Regional Commission, Invest Atlanta, Fulton Board of Registration and Elections, Leadership DeKalb, and Live Thrive (sustainability nonprofit).

Alex also currently serves as Assistant Vice President of Community Affairs at Emory University where leads Emory's efforts to build strong, supportive partnerships with local governments and community organizations, advancing Emory's contribution, presence, and recognition as a higher education partner in the community. Alex previously served as the executive director of Horizons Atlanta, a nonprofit organization that provides tuition-free summer enrichment programs to K-8 students. Prior to that, he served as Director of Development and Alumni Relations at Emory University and as Director of Development at Jerusalem House (now Status: Home), Atlanta's largest HIV housing provider.

Alex holds a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering degree from Georgia Tech and a Master of Business Administration degree from Wharton Business School. He has also successfully completed educational programs at Dartmouth College and Harvard University.



After growing up in Stone Mountain, Alex now lives in Morningside where he has been a homeowner since 1994. He is a beekeeper and proud dad to two Labrador-mix rescues - lyah and Jordy

Section II: Priorities

1. What are your top three priorities if elected?

My three priorities for my next term on Atlanta City Council are (1) transportation infrastructure, (2) fiscal oversight, and (3) improved enforcement.

I have been a consistent voice on Transportation Committee about how critical it is that we deliver on the City's transportation initiatives, not only to honor our commitment to taxpayers but also to prepare for the City's projected population growth and usage of our systems. I authored legislation to track infrastructure bond projects for transparency and accountability, and I have applied that same level of scrutiny to MARTA projects when the agency is before committee. I have also championed alternative ways to deliver projects (procurement methodology, contracting strategies, and transferring funds to CIDs and nonprofits) to expand capacity.

The current condition of our transportation infrastructure is painfully evident as one traverses any major thoroughfares in the city. Potholes create unpleasant rides that can potentially damage vehicles, and roads lacking safety features for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians make for dangerous passage for all. This is further exacerbated by all the approved redevelopments that will bring even more users through these corridors, not to mention the various plots that are ripe to form the next wave of proposed projects.

The good news is that each of the streets listed above is currently included in either the Renew Atlanta or Moving Atlanta Forward project list, and the administration recently affirmed that the funding for each is intact. One of the primary reasons I am seeking office again is my determination to see such projects across the finish line, including the projects in the Renew Atlanta and Moving Atlanta Forward infrastructure bonds as well as our annual maintenance and capital projects. My aim is ensuring these projects are successfully delivered as quickly as possible.

The five years that I have served as Chair of the Finance Executive Committee over my council career has given me an in-depth understanding of our city's budgets, both income and expenses. I have championed fiscal responsibility and striven to provide appropriate



oversight to the city's use of taxpayer resources. This oversight becomes even more critical as we continue to face economic uncertainty ahead.

The Mayor recently stated his position that increases in property taxes to meet the city's growing needs is inevitable. I find that particularly concerning because communities in my district already face high property tax bills, and further increases could make staying in our homes an unaffordable option (it's actually already happening to some). My priority next term is to continue serving as a steadfast watchdog on behalf of the city's taxpayers.

I continue to hear from a growing number of constituents frustrated with the City's lack of enforcement of our laws - from building code to alcohol licensing to simple traffic laws. As lawmakers, we strive to set policy that protects and improves our City's quality of life, and every failure to maintain those standards chips away at our communities' well-being.

My colleagues and I have continuously lifted this issue every chance we get, during quarterly reports from the departments to the annual budget process. I'm encouraged that our staffing levels have stabilized, which should lead to improved inspection and enforcement capacity across all departments. It will take intentional diligence to push on this, and I intend to keep lifting this issue in my next term.

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 am proud to have voted in support of the Public Safety Training Center since returning to City Council in 2022. While those were difficult proceedings, improving public safety was a cornerstone of my 2021 campaign, and the successful completion of that facility plays an integral part in the City's overall public safety strategy.

Now that the center is up and running, I look forward to seeing it being utilized as originally intended as a facility where public safety teams from multiple jurisdictions can convene and coordinate through training activities. I especially appreciate Chief Schierbaum's commitment to strengthening Atlanta Police Department's relationship with our partner agencies as a public safety enhancement strategy. Criminals do not necessarily see jurisdiction boundaries, so it is imperative that we are all in lockstep in fighting crime.

Additionally, I will work to advocate that the department continues to incorporate the most current and innovative enforcement strategies into its training academy, both for new recruits and our tenured rank and file. As societal dynamics continue to evolve, so must our approach to public safety. The training center should serve as the focal point for these efforts.

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?

This has been a frustration for me for years now, especially given the City's significant investments in infrastructure projects designed to enhance the safety of drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians, only to have them negated by these drivers. Encouragingly, the City has embarked on developing a Comprehensive Transportation Plan that will also include strategies on curbside management. Solutions may include designated loading/unloading zones intentionally located so as not to block traffic as well as enhanced enforcement by Atlanta Police or authorized contractors to discourage continuing such behavior. I look forward to the delivery of the CTP and stand ready to implement their recommendations.

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 node has the right ingredients (proximity to major transportation arteries, access to transit, combination of mixed uses from recent redevelopment, etc.) for a vibrant, thriving community, yet the area seems to struggle to achieve its full potential. Kroger's closing and the impacts of increasing unsheltered encampments create more headwinds for the area. I am very interested in supporting strategies to help turn the area around.

The MARTA campus includes undeveloped parcels that should be considered as potential catalytic projects, perhaps as part of the agency's transportation-oriented development (TOD) initiative. The relocation of Atlanta Fire Station 29 onto one of those parcels will add a public safety presence in the area that could help, and the City's continued focus and interjurisdictional agency coordination as part of our strategy to address the unsheltered

community will hopefully yield some progress. Of course, investments to enhance aesthetics along the corridor might help in the short term, but ultimately, the City should explore and support redevelopment efforts street front to Piedmont to bring a sustained solution for the blight.

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 proliferation of trails and increased connectivity across the City through initiatives like the Atlanta Beltline and various Complete/Safe Streets projects has resulted in a commensurate interest in sidewalks and other paths to access these new amenities. While we have been able to take advantage of redevelopment in commercial corridors to include or enhance sidewalks as part of those projects, the same opportunity is not available to the same degree in residential neighborhoods. Funding then becomes the key challenge, exacerbated by the fact that the increased demand for sidewalks runs city-wide and that the City does not have sufficient resources to implement that broadly.

I remain committed to helping identify and secure funding sources for our district. They may include transportation impact fees and annual Transportation capital dollars. Additionally, I have seen neighborhood associations successfully incentivize sidewalk maintenance and/or construction by offering grants to homeowners for 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?

I certainly empathize with my colleagues on the Atlanta Public Schools Board that must face these difficult decisions, but I appreciate the process currently underway to vet scenarios and engage stakeholders within an appropriate timeline. The school clusters in the northeast are an important factor in the desirability of our neighborhoods, so these decisions must be made thoughtfully.

I trust APS will strike an appropriate balance between quantitative (enrollment, financials, projections) and qualitative (community engagement/support, program quality, etc.), and I will continue to track this closely as it moves forward. I am also happy to help address any factors within the purview of the City of Atlanta that might impact or mitigate potential closures or consolidations in those considerations.

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?

As the frequency of intense rain events increases, we continue to see more damaging effects of the subsequent flooding that occurs, both in our waterways like Peachtree Creek as well as on our lower lying corridors. I have long been an advocate for creating a comprehensive stormwater utility to fund and implement a long-term plan to address this issue. We have a vested interest in putting this in place while we embark on repairing our aging water/sewer infrastructure, as sudden surges in flow during storms put additional pressure on an already fragile system.

We also need to tightly enforce our city's stormwater runoff containment requirements for construction projects to ensure that they are properly controlling water flowing from their properties and not adding to the problem. Finally, opportunities to include water retention features into our infrastructure projects should be aggressively pursued. Rain gardens provide not only an aesthetic but also functional purpose in this effort.

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?



The water main break in the summer of 2024 and the protracted time it took to locate and repair it remains a painful reminder of the current condition of our water infrastructure. Just this week, we experienced yet another water main break in Midtown that resulted in outages for businesses and residents. While system-wide repairs are estimated to cost over \$2 billion and take 20 years to complete, it is imperative that the City approach that plan as vigorously as possible to prevent future devastating failures and to ensure our capacity to meet the needs of an ever-growing population. The good news is that the watershed enterprise fund appears to be in good financial standing. The key is prioritizing the restoration projects and having the discipline to follow that plan, all with the federal consent decree requirements still to complete.

The City needs to pivot from a reactive to a more proactive approach with regards to repair and replacement. The quarterly reports from the Department of Watershed Management currently focus only on response-related key performance indicators (broken line and main break repairs), but we need to also establish and track preventive activity metrics (inspections, replacements, pipe conditioning, etc.) as well. We also should request and track progress against the Mayor's long-term plan to keep it front of mind.

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?

In 2023, the Atlanta City Council set an ambitious goal to have a tree canopy that covers 50% of our land. Meeting that lofty target will mean intentional gives and takes from all stakeholders, both tree advocates and property owners and developers. While council did pass a modest update to our Tree Protection Ordinance earlier this summer, I for one was prepared to take a more aggressive posture in terms of the provisions of the legislation, and I look forward to revisiting this issue next term. More specifically, I hope that we do incorporate a meaningful tree preservation standard into the ordinance and a recompense schedule that will serve as a stronger deterrent to the practice of clear-cutting trees on a plot.



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?

Accomplishing the priorities I have set for District 6 for my next term would also help the Buckhead community achieve its goals. Advancing transportation infrastructure, bringing strong fiscal oversight, and ensuring the City enforces its code all support lifting the quality of life in our neighborhoods and business corridors, and I feel that the Buckhead community leaders have long been strong advocates for these objectives. Continuing to be that voice - cheerleaders when we do well but offering constructive feedback when we should do better - is probably the best way to support my efforts.

The Buckhead community has also been very good at reaching out and collaborating with the City Council in addition to the Mayor's Office. This helps foster a collective approach addressing issues that impact Atlanta's future. I look forward to continuing that work with you.