



Candidate Pre-Interview Questionnaire

The Committee for a Better Atlanta (CBA) is a coalition of business organizations concerned about Atlanta. In 2009, CBA is interviewing candidates for mayor, City Council president and City Council with the intent of publishing a voter's guide of candidate evaluations. The evaluations will be based on the answers to the questions in this document, plus in-person interviews to be held this summer.

Your answers to these questions are very important to the CBA interview and evaluation process. ***Candidates who do not complete this questionnaire will not be scheduled for an interview with CBA.***

Please complete this questionnaire and deliver it to the Committee for a Better Atlanta so it arrives **no later than 5 p.m., July 31, 2009**. Questionnaires can be filled out electronically and emailed to cwatkins@macoc.com or mailed to:

**Committee for a Better Atlanta
235 International Blvd., NW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Attn: Che Watkins**

If you have any questions about completing the questionnaire – or about the CBA process – please contact Che Watkins at (404) 586-8468.

Candidate information:

Name: Bahareh Azizi

Position Sought: Atlanta City Council, District 6

Address: 275 13th St. NE #1108

City, State, ZIP: Atlanta, GA 30309

Telephone: 404 704 4861 Cell phone: 404 704 4861

E-mail address: bahareh.azizi@voteazizi.com

Campaign Web site address: www.voteazizi.com

Secondary contact information: (If you prefer that CBA direct scheduling inquiries to someone other than the candidate, check here. PLEASE SELECT)

Name: Jamila Pope

Relationship to candidate: Campaign Manager

(e.g. Administrative assistant, campaign manager, etc.)

Address: PO Box 79213

City, State, ZIP: Atlanta, GA 30357

Telephone: 404 704 4861 Cell phone: 404 704 4861

E-mail address: Jamila.pope@voteazizi.com

Please answer the questions in the space provided on this questionnaire.

1. In your opinion, what are the three greatest issues (problems or opportunities) facing Atlanta? The three main issues facing Atlanta today are safety, the city's budget and transportation. In the past two years, property crime and burglaries have increase dramatically. We must work towards making Atlanta safer by increasing the presence of police patrol throughout our streets, neighborhoods, around our school, and in our parks. In order for Atlanta to grow, the City's budget must be balanced efficiently without compromising the essential needs of the community. Atlanta needs to work towards the reliability, efficiency, and safety of our public transportation system, while making our streets more accessible to bikers and pedestrians.

2. Describe briefly your qualifications for holding this office. *(Please answer in the space below, but you may also attach a resume or other description to provide us with additional detail.)*

My qualifications for this position are:

- a. Currently, I am a Lecturer/Researcher and the Research Support Manager in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the Georgia Institute of Technology. I have also been an Adjunct Professor of Chemistry at Oxford College of Emory University. As a researcher, I have an analytical mind that is tailored towards solving complex problems and finding efficient solutions.
- b. As the Research Support Manager at Georgia Tech, I am responsible for managing all of the research facilities within the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, involving management of staff and generating revenue for the research facilities.
- c. Leading my family's upholstery business, I have the business and financial background that would be an asset to this position.
- d. I have been a member of the Junior League of Atlanta, volunteering at various organizations around the Metro Area. In the past two years, I have served as chair of the nation-wide program called "Kids in the Kitchen", a program dedicated to fighting childhood obesity.
- e. My resume is attached.

3. What events or experiences caused you to decide to run for this office?

As one of many here in Atlanta, I am not a native of Atlanta. I have traveled extensively around the world and lived in a number of cities. However, I decided to make Atlanta my home because I love Atlanta. Not only do I love Atlanta, but I believe in her potential to become a more nationally recognized and internationally renowned city. However, in order for Atlanta to reach her full potential, we have to address some of the local issues that are hindering her growth. I believe that we need to start addressing some of the fundamental issues facing our local neighborhoods, streets, parks and schools. We need to address issues such as public safety, high property taxes, transportation, and education. We must work together to find LONG-TERM solutions to issues that are currently facing our district and the city of Atlanta as a whole.

4. Please identify up to five organizations or individuals who are actively supporting your candidacy.

- 1) Herman J. Russell
- 2) H.J Russell and Company
- 3) Charles Huddleston
- 4) John Jackson
- 5) Wayne Reece

5. The city government faces a \$50 million budget shortfall this fiscal year. How would you close the budget gap?

First and foremost, I would address the inefficiencies that are currently present in Atlanta's city government, such as bills not being collected and the overlap of duties of city employees. I would work towards increasing efficiency in the city's spending and most importantly, in terms of budgeting. Another approach is to make sure that we are following good accounting measures, such that, we are not spending money that does not exist in the budget and that we eliminate wasteful spending.

6. Since 2004, the city's official goal has been to have 2,000 police officers. The Police Department is now at 1,615 officers. Do you support the goal? If so, how would you pay for the additional officers given the city's budget problems?

Yes, I support having more police officers on the streets of Atlanta. In fact, I support the number of police officers to provide efficient patrolling of our streets, neighborhoods, schools and parks so that ALL types of crime are reduced in Atlanta. I believe in quality AND quantity, and I would work to ensure that we are utilizing our current force efficiently, and that we as a city are taking care of the needs of our police officers as well. If we have the budget to increase the number of police officers, then the solution is simple. If however, extra police officers are needed, and the budget does not allow it, we need to research the best solution possible. For example, in certain cities, part-time retired police officers were hired to do the administrative work of the police department, allowing more active police officers to patrol the streets. Thus, you increase police presence in the streets without great costs.

7. Mayor Franklin has used tax-allocation districts and tax abatements to support redevelopment projects. What would you have the city government do to support desirable redevelopment projects in the years ahead?

I will continue to support the TADs and tax abatements presented by Mayor Shirley Franklin. However, there are other possibilities that we can research as alternative forms of revenue for development. In times of economic stress, the burden of an increased or additional tax on the residents of this city is not acceptable. Since Atlanta has a number of non-residents which utilize the benefits of Atlanta, we can research solutions that would allow for additional forms of revenue for the city, such as collecting an additional fee for liquor and cigarette purchases.

8. Traffic congestion is a major problem in Atlanta. If you could implement only one initiative, enhancement or management change to reduce congestion in Atlanta in the next four years, what would it be? Note: This should be something within the city government's ability to implement. I would like to ensure that MARTA is providing efficient, reliable and safe services for the constituents of the City as well as the commuters. I would support initiatives for businesses that promote a four-day work week and the use of public transportation.

9. In your opinion, what are the three greatest infrastructure problems facing Atlanta over the next four years? Please rank them in terms of importance and urgency.

1) We must continue to make sure that the sewer project in on time and on budget.

a. I would be a voice on behalf of Atlanta on the water negotiation problems.

2) Atlanta ranks 42nd out of 50 metropolitan cities in terms of air quality (SustainLane.com).

- a. We need to find ways to improve our air quality by reducing congestion and making the public more dependent on public transportation.
- 3) We need to preserve our parks and natural environment around the city.