



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: Elizabeth B. "Liz" Coyle

Position Sought: Atlanta City Council District 6

Address: 1117 St. Charles Place NE

City, State, ZIP: Atlanta, GA 30306

Telephone: 404-815-0853 Cell phone: 404-895-1613

E-mail address: liz@lizcoyleforatlanta.com

Campaign Web site address: www.lizcoyleforatlanta.com

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

Name: Click here to enter text.

Relationship to candidate: Click here to enter text.

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

Address: Click here to enter text.

City, State, ZIP: Click here to enter text.

Telephone: Click here to enter text. Cell phone: Click here to enter text.

E-mail address: Click here to enter text.

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? Atlanta has an unprecedented opportunity to plan and prepare for expected growth in the region in ways that maximize its economic development potential, while mitigating negative impacts on existing infrastructure and preserving its assets, especially its great neighborhoods. To realize the greatest benefit from this opportunity, the City must:

1. Develop a long-range plan to better manage its finances in times of both constricted and increased revenue in order to ensure a strong record of public safety, outstanding delivery of basic services, and a stabilized and improved bond rating that allows the City to continue to meet its current and future infrastructure needs.
2. Tackle its transportation challenges with a regional approach. The City and region cannot sustain growth unless we deal collectively with existing and forecast congestion. The regional Concept 3 Plan developed by the Transit Planning Board, and the City's Connect Atlanta Plan must be implemented. The City's political leadership must make this a high priority, working with the business community and advocacy organizations to ensure the State does its part to make funding available for these critically important transportation improvements.
3. Be the recognized leader in the Southeast for sustainable development. The City must adopt policies that address the social, economic and environmental impacts of new development while seizing on the opportunity to be at the forefront of business development in new green technologies.

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.)*

I have extensive experience in my professional and volunteer civic background that prepares me to be the City Council representative for District 6. As a communications consultant, community leader and public school advocate, I have created environments for collaborative dialogue to reach consensus solutions. A skilled communicator, I am able to facilitate successful issues resolution with a constructive problem solving approach. My relevant experience for this office includes:

- Twenty-five years as a communications professional, with a concentration in the area of sustainable development.
- Thirteen years as a community leader in District 6, including as neighborhood association president, PTA president, Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools co-president, NPU vice chair, Citizen's Police Academy participant, and BeltLine representative.

- Service on a number of committees that have provided input on City policies, including the stakeholder committee for the Combined Sewer Overflow Remedial Measures Plan in 2002-2003; an advisory group on revising the City alcohol code in 2004; and the Atlanta BeltLine Inc. Board of Directors since 2006.

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

Through my years of civic involvement in Atlanta and District 6, I have come to know and understand the challenges and opportunities we face. I want to be a member of City Council to work with the Administration to help solve the City's problems and to represent District constituents on issues that matter to them.

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

- 1) Pamela Papner, president of the Virginia Highland Civic Association; marketing executive
AT&T Mobility
- 2) Rogers Barry, real estate professional, civic leader, Piedmont Heights resident and past
president

- 3) Esther and Jim Stokes, Sustainable Solutions Georgia
- 4) David Green, architect, Georgia Tech urban planning professor, Candler Park Resident
- 5) Scott Kaye, attorney, and Walt Ray, park designer, Virginia Highland residents

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

The City budget should be based on a long-range financial plan that looks at restructuring its pension plans and spreads its pension obligation payments over a longer period while taking advantage near-term of stimulus dollars for improvement projects or those available related to public safety. The finance department must continue to reform outdated accounting practices with a focus on identifying waste and inefficiency across all City departments. The City should adopt zero-based budgeting practices, requiring Department heads to justify all expenses each year. Budgets should then be built around priorities of public safety and basic service delivery.

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 the goal of adding officers to the force, but I also would look at ways to increase the number of beat officers in relation to desk officers already on the force and expanding community policing programs to build public confidence that Atlanta streets are safe. Also, we need to retain good officers and end the cycle of training new recruits only to lose them to other jurisdictions a few years later, while keeping experienced officers engaged after retirement so that younger officers can benefit from their experience.

As a City Council member, I will hold the Administration accountable for hiring a Chief of Police who restores department morale, earns the respect of the force, and assures public safety. As stated above, the City should adopt budget practices that identify wasteful spending and focus on priorities of public safety and basic service delivery.

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 support continued use of tax-based incentives to stimulate redevelopment in underdeveloped areas of the City and encourage more focus on tax incentives that promote historic preservation through adaptive reuse. The City should adopt policies in the zoning code that promote sustainability by addressing the social, economic and environmental impacts of the built environment. Projects such as the BeltLine that stimulate economic development through infrastructure improvements should continue to be promoted by the City.

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 implement the Connect Atlanta Plan, the City's first comprehensive transportation plan to ensure mobility to sustain continued economic growth. The plan balances automotive, transit, bicycle and pedestrian transportation modes with good land use planning that ties future transportation improvements to future development. A key component of this is an integrated transit system people will use. Mixed-use, mixed-income compact and transit-oriented developments will allow the City to accommodate increased density with less congestion by promoting transit, as well as pedestrian and bicycle access to live, work, and recreational needs.

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) Transportation into and within the City.

2) Water, especially in light of the recent court ruling impacting Atlanta's access to water from Lake Lanier. In addition to continuing the drinking water and sewer system upgrades, the City needs to adopt policies to more aggressively manage this resource, including those that capture and use stormwater.

3) Public realm, especially parks and sidewalks. Public spaces help define a City and can have direct quality of life and health benefits. Atlanta is significantly short on park space and has too many streets without sidewalks or made hazardous by broken sidewalks. We need to expand and better maintain the City's public realm.