



2017 VOTERS GUIDE

BY THE COUNCIL FOR INTOWN NEIGHBORHOODS AND SCHOOLS (CINS)

The [Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools](#) (CINS) supports the Grady cluster of schools through advocacy, investment and community engagement. More than 6,500 APS students live in this community, which includes Downtown, Midtown, parts of the West Side, Ansley Park, Piedmont Heights, Old 4th Ward, Morningside, Inman Park, Virginia Highlands, Candler Park, and Lake Claire. Our schools are Grady High, Inman Middle, Centennial Academy, Kindezi Old 4th Ward, and Hope-Hill, Mary Lin, Morningside, and Springdale Park elementary schools. To learn more about CINS, please visit www.cinsatlanta.org.

REGISTER TO VOTE DEADLINE

October 10, 2017 (Passed)

RUN-OFF EARLY VOTING

Monday, November 27 to Friday, December 1, 2017

RUN-OFF ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, December 5, 2017
Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

HELPFUL LINKS

- Voter registration, districts, and polling locations at: [My Voter Page](#)
- [City Council Districts and Precincts](#)
- [City Council & Board of Education Districts](#)
- [General Atlanta Municipal Election Information](#)
- [General Election Results](#)

INSIDE THE GUIDE

(Clickable Page Numbers)

Board of Education		City Council	
District 1	2	At-Large Post 1	10
District 2	2	At-Large Post 2	10
District 3	3	At-Large Post 3	10
At-Large Seat 7	5	District 2	10
At-Large Seat 8	7	District 3	10
At-Large Seat 9	7	District 4	10
		District 5	10
		District 6	10
City Council President	8	Mayor	11

ATLANTA MUNICIPAL RUN-OFF ELECTIONS

In early September, CINS sent questionnaires to 68 candidates seeking to represent the intown neighborhoods zoned for Atlanta's Grady cluster of schools. The questions came from CINS members and other intown neighbors, and most fell into one of two categories:

- Quality of life
- Collaboration between the City and the Atlanta Board of Education

Our original, full 2017 Voters Guide was published in early October 2017. This revised Voters Guide reflects the original responses from those candidates that are in a run-off election. We are grateful to all of them for their willingness to serve our community, and we thank those who responded for the time and thought they put into sharing their views with us.

The candidates' responses, which are listed in alphabetical order by office, are published as they were received without editing or verification; however, fonts were changed and extra spacing was removed in some cases. Click the page numbers on the "Inside the Guide" section below to jump to the desired page.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, CINS does not endorse candidates. This Voter Guide is provided instead to encourage voter awareness and participation. Readers can learn more about the candidates through their campaign websites and news sources such the [Atlanta-Journal Constitution](#), www.atlantaloop.com and www.voteatl.org.

Remember: You can vote in the December 5th run-off election even if you didn't vote in the general election on November 7th.

Atlanta Board of Education

- Six seats on the Atlanta Board of Education serve all or part of the Grady cluster: Districts 1, 2 and 3, and At-large Seats 7, 8 and 9.
- Districts 2 and 3 and At-large Post 7 are in the run-off election.

Atlanta City Council and City Council President

- Nine seats on the Atlanta City Council serve all or part of the Grady cluster: City Council President, At-large Posts 1, 2 and 3, and Districts 2-6.
- City Council President and District 4 are in the run-off election.

Atlanta Mayor

- Keisha Lance Bottoms and Mary Norwood are in the run-off election.



<p>Question 1: Please describe your experience with public schools. (150 words)</p> <p>Question 2: What is the Grady cluster's greatest asset? What is its greatest challenge? (150 words)</p> <p>Question 3: Grady cluster stakeholders include not only educators, students and parents, but also businesses, community organizations and residents who do not have children in Atlanta Public Schools. If elected, how would you be accountable to all constituents? (150 words)</p> <p>Question 4: How would you address the overcrowding and disrepair/aging of many Grady cluster schools (e.g., Morningside Elementary and Grady)? (250 words)</p>	<p>Question 5: As apartment and condominium construction continues in areas served by Grady cluster schools, to what extent do you think increased density will lead to increased enrollment, and how would you suggest Atlanta Public Schools plan for this growth? (250 words)</p> <p>Question 6: Do you support the current proposal to annex Emory University, the Centers for Disease Control and surrounding properties into the City of Atlanta? If so, do you believe A) that those annexed areas should be served by Atlanta Public Schools, and B) that they should be zoned for Grady cluster schools? Please explain your reasoning. (250 words)</p>	<p>Question 7: Major events staged in Piedmont Park during the school year have a significant negative impact on Grady High School. From set-up to strike, the largest events can last up to two weeks, during which time it is often difficult for students and faculty to get to and from school on time and participate in after-hours activities on campus. This affects drivers, walkers, cyclists and those who take transit. What would you do to mitigate the impact of such events? (250 words)</p> <p>Question 8: What is your assessment of public charter schools? What can traditional public schools learn from them? What can they learn from traditional public schools? (250 words)</p>	<p>Question 9: Though the City of Atlanta and Atlanta Public Schools have long been separate entities, the City still holds the property deeds to approximately 50 APS properties. In recent years, the City has withheld deeds, making it impossible for APS to sell vacant properties. What is your take on this situation, and what are your thoughts on remedying it? (250 words)</p> <p>Question 10: Property taxes collected by Fulton County account for nearly three fourths of the APS budget, so when the County reacted to the outcry over 2017 assessments by returning to 2016 assessment levels, this put APS in a bind. Is there a different school budget procedure you can recommend to protect our school revenues from future actions of this kind by the County? (250 words)</p> <p>Question 11: Why are you the better candidate for this office?</p>
---	--	--	---

District 1

No run-off

District 2

Byron Amos

www.byronamos1.homestead.com

Incumbent

Answer 1: I am a product of the Atlanta Public Schools, attending M. M. Bethune Elem., J.F. Kennedy Middle, graduating from Booker T. Washington High School. As a proud father of three daughters, all graduates of Booker T Washington High School and one son that attends an APS school, my experience with public schools is extensive. I have served my children and their schools as PTA President and Vice president on several occasions. I have been a member of Band Boosters, Athletic Boosters and Alumni Associations. Currently, I am serving as the Atlanta Board of

Education District 2 Board member, where I am finishing my sixth year of service.

Answer 2: I believe that the Grady Clusters biggest asset is its parents and its long history of academic achievement. All of the schools in the Cluster have a robust PTA and a parental engagement process. The parents and caregivers of the Cluster ensures that the students are equipped for success. The biggest challenged of the Grady Cluster is equity and overcrowded facilities. We have not been able to find the correct formula of delivering access to an equitable education to all of the students in the Cluster. Then there is the overcrowding issue. The Grady Cluster is a desired educational designation for many but our facilities are not able to accommodate the need.

Answer 3: As an elected member of the Board of Education, I will be accountable to my student population first, then to their parents. As other

stakeholders look to support our students and their families, I will be held accountable by all to ensure that we have a complete plan of action, that is student focus and family grounded to achieve student success.

Answer 4: I have begun to address this issue by supporting the upcoming SPLOST. Although the monies that have been earmarked for future remodeling and expansion is on the way, we must do more. We need a plan that speaks to the proper growth of the Cluster and the ability for others to transfer into it. I will support a comprehensive plan that will address the structural growth of the Cluster and its needed repairs but inside of this plan, we must also begin to address the equity issues of Atlanta Public Schools that in many ways supports the overcrowding of the Cluster.

Answer 5: I will advocate for a comprehensive plan that most include APS expansion data and data from the City of Atlanta

and other governmental agencies. In regards to APS, our plan must include designs for new or remodel building as well and the moving of attendance zone lines to achieve our goals. A plan of action the will ensure smart growth is needed.

Answer 6: (No response.)

Answer 7: I better partnership between the City of Atlanta, Atlanta Public Schools and the promoters of these events is what is needed. There should never be an event in the park that compromise the learning environment of our students. All events should be plan around our schools and the needs of our students and families. Then I also believe that an "impact" fee should be discussed that should go to address the needs of our student. In this partnership, our students should also be given the opportunity to be an active part of the event in a learning capacity.

Answer 8: (No response.)



Answer 9: (No response.)

Answer 10: (No response.)

Answer 11: (No response.)

Keisha Carey

www.keishacareyatlantaboard.com

(Did not respond.)

District 3

Adzua Agyapon

www.adzuaforaps.com

Answer 1: Special Education Teacher, Midway Elementary, Fall 2011-Spring 2013 New Teacher Coach, Teach for America Summer Institute, Benteen Elementary, 2013 New Teacher Coach, Teach for America Summer Institute, Slater Elementary, 2014 Lead Teacher, Grade Level Chair, Instructional Coach, and Member of the Extended Academic Leadership Team, KIPP STRIVE Primary School, Fall 2013-Current Founding Coach and Site Director, KSP Girls on the Run, Spring 2016 School Director, Teach for America Summer Institute, Cascade Elementary School Director, 2017

Answer 2: One of the Grady cluster's greatest assets is strong parent engagement. Parents are an essential part of dedicated communities of students, families, and educators that can transform students' lives and propel them toward an opportunity-rich life. One of the greatest challenges of the cluster is overcrowding.

Answer 3: If elected, I will make decisions that put our kids' needs first. I will be accountable to all constituents through transparency and resource stewardship. A school board ensures fiscal responsibility in

its budget planning process by creating a high return on taxpayers' investments. That would mean that all students are reading at grade level, graduating on time, going to college and becoming adults who contribute to society. These are discrete goals that we can achieve; we owe it to students and taxpayers. Thriving schools help ensure we have thriving communities that benefit all constituents.

Answer 4: APS and the Superintendent have a solid plan in place to address the overcrowding and disrepair of many of the schools in the cluster. This includes renovating Grady and creating a new middle school at Howard, however, we must ensure that the plans are implemented in a timely manner and reflect the city's projected growth and increased school enrollment.

Answer 5: The Grady cluster will certainly face increased enrollment as a result of continued housing construction. Advanced planning for a growing population requires consistent collaboration with city council. We must create a structured communication system between APS and the city's planning department to inform APS of new zoning and permitting agreements as well as growth projections before construction begins, so APS has time to plan for a growing student population.

Answer 6: While annexing Emory, the CDC, and surrounding properties into the city of Atlanta could heighten the prestige of our city, I cannot fully support the annexation proposal until we have more information about the cost of serving that area.

Answer 7: I would mitigate the negative impact of events at Piedmont Park by collaborating with the City of Atlanta to advocate for an event set-up schedule that works around the school day. Arrival and dismissal typically occur at the same time each day, so set-up should occur outside of those hours so events can enrich our community without detriment to our students' learning environments.

Answer 8: Charter schools were initially created to be learning labs, untethered from the slow pace of public school bureaucracy. This allowed innovative teachers and leaders to implement changes and discover best practices.

I know firsthand that some charter schools and some traditional public schools are serving kids and can be models for others. These best practices include strong teacher and school leader recruitment and training, a culture of high expectations and joy, in addition to a rigorous, integrated academic curriculum.

Answer 9: The City of Atlanta should transfer all remaining property deeds to Atlanta Public Schools, especially now that APS has adopted an affordable housing policy for the land.

Answer 10: Atlanta Public Schools' \$12 million dollar budget shortfall was the result of poor planning by Fulton County Commissioners office and under-assessing property values across the county. While Fulton County plans to create an equitable solution to right-size and adjust previous assessments, APS and our students cannot wait.

To avoid a similar shortfall in the future, APS should audit the

budget to ensure we are spending taxpayers' dollars effectively; create a conservative general fund budget for future years that includes austerity planning to accommodate mandatory costs increases for expenses such as rising health care costs and pensions; create an alternative budget to be used in the event that Fulton County adjusts tax assessments that lead to growth in the overall tax digest.

Answer 11: As the only candidate with experience as a teacher or municipal leader, I know firsthand how policies made in the boardroom affect our children in the classroom.

Every year, my underserved students learn and grow because I prepare and deliver engaging lessons. I collaborate with school staff and families to meet their myriad needs: from meals and clean clothes to mentorship and free books. We fight to ensure our kids get everything they need to achieve.

If elected, I will leverage my teaching experience to fight for all APS students to have access to an excellent education. This instructional experience, coupled with my tenure as an elected leader in New Haven, while a Yale student, have prepared me to serve as a school board representative because I know what it takes to collaborate, problem-solve, and advocate for progress at the local level. I am eager to apply my experience, roll up my sleeves, and work for all of our students.

Michelle Olympiadis

www.michelleforboe.com

Answer 1: An APS parent since 2007 with three children - one



each in high school, middle school and elementary school, along with my experiences at the state and local levels of education and leadership roles in Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) at the local, council and district levels, as well as service on local governance teams, state, district, and cluster advisory panels and committees positions me as the longest, most engaged and active candidate: President, Morningside Elementary School PTA — 2015-2017; VP of Communication Ga PTA District 10, 2016–2017; Member, State Advisory Panel, Georgia DOE, 2015–Present; Member, Student Success Stakeholder Committee, Georgia DOE, 2015–Present; Grady High School Cluster Advisory, 2016–Present; Inman Middle School Go Team, 2015 - Present; Special Education Advisory Committee , Atlanta Public Schools, 2014–Present; Principal Selection Committee Tier 3 - Morningside Elementary School, 2015 and Inman Middle School, 2016

Answer 2: The Grady cluster's greatest asset is its community. The Grady cluster hosts a diverse set of neighborhoods. The residents in these neighborhoods are engaged and supportive of all of the Grady cluster schools.

The Grady cluster's greatest challenge is its schools capacities. As the neighborhoods in the Grady cluster continue to attract all types of families, and knowing that the Grady cluster community values smaller class sizes, our greatest challenge is ensuring that we have facilities that meet our continued enrollment growth. Our schools are the center of our community and we need a comprehensive facility plan for the next 10 years

that addresses facility management, maintenance, and capital improvements and supports our educational framework for 21st century learning.

Answer 3: The best way to be accountable to all constituents is by continuing to be engaged in the community. Speaking with people, sending and responding to emails, attending neighborhood association and school meetings, and local events are the ways I will be accessible to all stakeholders.

Answer 4: Recently both Springdale Park and Mary Lin Elementary schools received expansions to support their growing enrollment. In the fall of 2020, the Howard building in the Old Fourth Ward will open as the cluster's new middle school with a capacity for just over 1400 students. When Howard opens, Morningside Elementary school will move into the Inman building while Morningside undergoes a renovation. Hopefully by the fall of 2022, Morningside will be open again. As soon as Howard is up and running the Grady cluster community will need to engage in conversations on what it believes will be the best use of the Inman building. It could revert to an elementary school, or can be used as another configuration depending on what the educational reasoning will be and the feedback from the community. Grady High School is also slated to have a renovation and additional building added to its campus. The Walden property is being transformed into an athletic complex mainly for the Grady cluster's use.

Continuous monitoring of the Grady Facilities Plan and on enrollment in the cluster schools

will dictate where adjustments may need to be made. A Grady Cluster Facilities Plan with community input should be made for the next 5 - 10 - 15 years with "triggers" based on capacity, enrollment and facilities.

Answer 5: In the past APS stated with certainty that these types of developments would not attract people with children. We now have proof that these types of construction do attract people with children if the schools are desirable. We must understand that if there is increased density how does it relate to the city's infrastructure as a whole - city services, roads, public transportation and schools and if it is doable and sustainable. We cannot be informed after the fact.

The mayor, the city council, the superintendent and the board of education need to have some rich dialogue about the continued focus of construction in certain areas of the city versus the city as a whole and take into consideration where there is limited access to school seats and where there is an abundance. As we know large real estate tracks are very limited in the Grady cluster and come with a very high price.

Answer 6: It is my understanding that under the current proposal the annexation of Emory University, the Centers for Disease Control and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta are exclusively asking for these properties to be annexed into the city of Atlanta. Thus, in the annexation proposal, no taxes will be coming into the city, yet city services like police, fire and sanitation will be required. With no tax revenue coming into the city, careful consideration should be given to understand how these entities plan on

supporting the city through public and private partnerships. Furthermore, Dekalb has requested to keep its school buildings. If the properties are annexed into the city and have residents with children wanting to attend APS schools, it is under the recommendation of the superintendent with broad approval as to where and when children will be zoned to schools.

APS is a district of choice and offers families the opportunity to apply to any schools that are not at capacity. Several of the Grady cluster's elementary schools are at capacity including its middle and high schools. Until the cluster's capacity issues are properly addressed for its current zoned areas as well as potential new areas being zoned into the city that are contiguous, any new zoned areas should be assigned to clusters with capacity. Once the Grady cluster has a long-term facility plan to manage long-term capacity, consideration can be considered to move areas into the cluster.

Answer 7: APS, the city council, the city's Office of Parks, and the Piedmont Park Conservancy must work together to better support the surrounding neighborhoods and schools impacted by various activities at Piedmont Park. More consideration should be given in the logistics of how events are managed. Recently even the handicap parking in front of Grady High School was completely blocked by event trucks. This is not acceptable.

In order to mitigate the impact of such events, better consideration and planning should be given to street closures; traffic signal timing should be assessed and realigned with street closures;



information dissemination before events and in real-time for drivers to understand the impact; better city transit to and from events; the bike lane should not be blocked and additional bicycle parking should be implemented; encouraging folks to use the beltline and enhancing other pedestrian paths to the park; issuing neighborhood parking permits will all assist in relieving the impacts of events in the park.

Answer 8: Atlanta Public Schools is a district of choice. Any school that is not at capacity offers families the option to apply to transfer. Since the opening of APS' first charter school in the early 2000's, we have seen the benefits of public and private partnerships, the positive results of providing birth to preschool education, offering Saturday school, as well as, an extended calendar and school day, the benefits of extra recess and the options of various extracurricular activities, the requirements of family engagement, and the power a community can have in driving the direction of its school with strong leadership and flexibility.

Charter schools must continue to learn and incorporate practices that promote all students the opportunity to attend a school closest to their homes and recognize inclusive practices for all students, including those whose aspirations may be high but whose talents are not yet as obvious, as are the duties of traditional schools.

Now that we are in a charter system, the ability for clusters and the schools within them to gather to ideate and innovate on an educational framework which works best for its community will leverage the "best practices" we

see in successful charter schools. By allowing communities the flexibility to define their expectations and deliverables - Strategic Plan - with the BOE and district making it a priority to provide the resources and supports necessary for clusters to succeed, we will see new processes evolve and yield the excellence we know can be achieved for all students.

Answer 9: When the school system parted with the city, it should have received all the deeds. The city is requesting that APS consider affordable housing options with the vacant properties. APS has received 10 deeds in the past six months and should continue to work with the city council and the mayor to secure the balance of the deeds.

Answer 10: APS' greatest strength is its budget. When the total of government funds are added together APS has roughly \$1 billion to serve approximately 50,000 students. Both Fulton and DeKalb counties receive roughly the same \$1 billion and serve closer to 100,000 students.

With respect to budgeting for fiscal year 2018, it would have been prudent for the budget process to follow the same budget as in year 2017 with consideration to a few contingency plans: 1) How would we spend last year's budget differently; 2) If an increase in dollars came in, how would the incremental dollars be budgeted; 3) If a decrease was the outcome, where would cuts be made. It was apparent very early on in the budgeting process that the newly released property taxes with increases were not being well received by property owners in both the city and throughout Fulton county.

APS' greatest challenge is the budgeting, accounting and auditing of the budget to reflect APS' educational mission and goals. We know APS is a high-need, high poverty district - over 75% qualify for free and reduced lunch.

We must do a better job of driving dollars into our clusters and schoolhouses to address the unique wants and needs of our schools and communities. When the budget is aligned to the programs and needs of the clusters and schools; when the accounting structure is clear on how dollars are being spent; when an audit determines that funds were used appropriately, we should see a direct correlation between money well spent and great educational outcomes for students.

Answer 11: With ten years of direct Atlanta Public Schools experience, I understand APS, its successes and challenges and our diverse array of communities' wants and needs. With my three children in elementary, middle, and high school, I am well positioned to serve through a big-picture sense of our children and those who work to support them every day.

Through my governance roles, I have learned the importance of accountability, communication, and transparency across the Grady Cluster and District as a whole:

- Grady Cluster Advisory, 2016 - Present
- Inman Go Team, 2015 - Present
- Grady Cluster Planning, 2014-15
- Inman Local School Council, 2013 - 2015

Having served in these APS roles, I understand how

governance structure and flexibility come together to strengthen the unique work of each school both vertically and horizontally across grades, schools, and clusters. Further, I know first-hand the economies of scale needed across the district to ensure efficient use of resources.

At-Large Seat 7

Kandis Wood Jackson

www.kandiswoodjackson.com

Answer 1: My primary experience with public schools is my experience teaching Sixth Grade Social Studies at KIPP WAYS Academy in West Atlanta from 2008-2010. My experience as a teacher in an almost all-Black Title I school, where many of my students received free or reduced lunch, formed my belief that various social, political, and economic factors can often undermine the community-wide goal of providing quality public education to every student. In other words, we cannot educate in a vacuum; we must also account for the issues occurring outside of the classroom that impede a child's ability to learn. My experience as a public school teacher also reinforced in me the importance of hard work, high expectations, dedication, and compassion – particularly for all our children. They're worth it.

Answer 2: The Grady cluster's greatest asset is its people – its students, administrators, parents, and community-members. Grady's reputation for fostering active, concerned, participatory, and engaged stakeholders is noteworthy, and certainly an asset worth investing in and leveraging. In this regard, however,



consistency is key; the Grady cluster – as do all clusters – deserves to have consistently engaged, active, excellence-driven leaders who are developed and encouraged to remain in the cluster for as long as they want.

The cluster's greatest challenge is addressing capacity and facility issues, while balancing the priority of providing high-quality education, the realities of where people are moving in the city, transportation, traffic and congestion, safety, the historic value of its schools and neighborhoods, the equitable distribution of funding for construction and renovations, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

Answer 3: Accountability to all constituents - no matter their level of activity or personal investment in APS – will be a top priority. I will do this by listening. I will do this by leveraging my unique background and experience to “make the case” for APS. This means making the case for APS to the groups of citizens, including businesses, organizations, and residents, who are not actively invested in our public schools. It will be part of my job to outline for them the social, economic, and moral case for investing in high-quality public education – from cradle to college and career – even if they are not actively involved in the day-to-day operations of APS (or even if they still believe in the negative stereotypes about APS). This also means making the case for APS to those residents and organizations who, whether or not by choice, are deeply involved with APS, but, for various reasons, have lost faith in the system. I will work to restore and maintain their trust that every decision we make is

one with their child's best interest at heart.

Answer 4: I would continue APS's outlined plan for renovations and improvements to many Grady cluster schools. This would include expanding Grady High School to help address overcrowding and capacity issues, as well as utilizing as efficiently and equitably as possible the SPLOST 2017 funds to complete major renovation projects for Grady cluster schools. As to renovations at Grady and Morningside, I will be actively involved in the establishment of a neutral, experienced design committee; the selection of a cost-efficient, experienced, and trust-worthy architect; and the legal and fiscal oversight over any contracts entered into by APS as a part of the renovation process. Most importantly, however, I will actively seek-out ideas, opinions, and feedback from Grady cluster stakeholders at every step of the renovation process. To the extent permissible, taskforces and other stakeholder committees must be established.

I will also put into place more-immediate solutions to the capacity and facility issues at schools in the Grady cluster. My experience as a classroom teacher made it very clear that a thoughtful and proportionate student to teacher ratio can be directly linked to instructional effectiveness and student achievement. When developing a timeline for the completion of projects, we must prioritize student learning above all else. This may mean putting immediate measures into place to ensure that all classrooms are appropriately filled. It could also mean preventing proposed annexations or other proposals that might result in additional

students being zoned into the Grady cluster until all renovation projects are completed. Community input in this regard is key.

Answer 5: According to recent studies, Atlanta is one of the fastest growing cities in the country, and it is projected that Atlanta will have the sixth largest metro area by 2040. And one drive through the Grady cluster neighborhoods makes clear that much of Atlanta's growth is happening right here. I hope increased density will lead to increased enrollment in all APS schools – and in Grady cluster schools. We should strive to create a city where sending your child to their local public school is the expectation, not the exception; and we should seek to increase enrollment as a means by which to measure our success as a system that attracts most students from most neighborhoods.

Of course APS should plan for this growth. Here's how: by implementing prospective, forward-thinking policies and plans that are not simply reactions to solve past problems but plans to have solutions ready before the problem arises. The Grady cluster renovation and construction projects are a good start in this regard. But, we must also continue to collaborate with the City to consider how transportation, traffic, and safety will play a part in the analysis, especially as Atlanta grows.

Answer 6: While I have followed this story closely, and certainly have opinions about the potential annexation, I have not come to a concrete position on whether or not I support the proposal. I hope to have a concrete position on this issue

once the arbitration process is finished.

Answer 7: Piedmont Park has a long and rich history of serving as a location for special events in Atlanta. While I would not work to prohibit most of these productive, popular, and appropriate major events at Piedmont Park, I would work with the City to establish policies and protocols to minimize their impact on students and faculty. Some such protocols might include curfews, road blocks, student transportation assistance, and the optional contribution of attendance fees to fund such efforts. They might also include the use of new technology to assist with parking, transportation, and crowd control; as well as experimentation with transportation and crowd-management algorithms and decongestion models.

Answer 8: Under the APS system, public charter schools are public schools. From my experience teaching at charter school, as well as working with other charter and partner schools as a volunteer, the charter and partner schools that APS supports provide innovative, high-quality education to its students. Generally speaking, our charter and partner schools have been effective at: recruitment, retention, and development of effective teachers and leaders; setting high expectations for students and staff; establishing cultures of trust, collaboration, and excellence; making tough decisions when necessary to prioritize student achievement; and putting kids first.

Answer 9: This is a complicated issue, involving legal issues of ownership and other dynamics, and I expect to



have a concrete position on it soon.

Answer 10: (No response)

Answer 11: (No response)

Patricia Crayton

www.newmenu.org/electpatricia

(Did not respond.)

At-Large Seat 8

No run-off

At-Large Seat 9

No run-off



<p>Question 1: Please describe your experience with public schools. (150 words)</p> <p>Question 2: As a member of City Council, how would you support public education? (150 words)</p> <p>Question 3: Do you support the current proposal to annex Emory University, the Centers for Disease Control and surrounding properties into the City of Atlanta? If so, do you believe that those annexed areas should be served by Atlanta Public Schools? Please explain your reasoning. (250 words)</p>	<p>Question 4: When the Trust for Public Land released its 2017 ParkScore Index, Atlanta ranked 50th among the 100 largest U.S. cities. One way to increase the city's score is to partner with schools to open their facilities (gyms, track, football and soccer fields, pools, etc.) to the public outside of school hours. Would you support such partnerships, and if so, how could City Council facilitate these arrangements?</p> <p>Question 5: Though the City of Atlanta and Atlanta Public Schools have long been separate entities, the City still holds the deeds to approximately 50 APS properties. In recent years, the City has withheld property deeds,</p>	<p>making it impossible for APS to sell vacant properties. What is your take on this situation, and what are your thoughts on remedying it? (250 words)</p> <p>Question 6: Major events staged in Piedmont Park during the school year have a significant negative impact on Grady High School. From set-up to strike, the largest events can last up to two weeks, during which time it is difficult for students and faculty to get to and from school on time and participate in after-hours activities on campus. This affects drivers, walkers, cyclists and those who take transit. What would you do to mitigate the impact of such events? (250 words)</p>	<p>Question 7: Property taxes collected by Fulton County account for nearly one third of the City's general fund, so when the County reacted to the outcry over 2017 assessments by returning to 2016 assessment levels, this put the City in a bind. Did the City of Atlanta make a mistake in stepping away from the tax assessment function in the 1990s? How could the City be involved in preventing this kind of misstep in the future? (250 words)</p> <p>Question 8: How would you address the continued rapid growth of Atlanta's intown neighborhoods and its effects on transportation and affordable housing? (250 words)</p> <p>Question 9: Why are you the better candidate for Grady cluster voters?</p>
---	---	---	--

City Council President

Felicia Moore

www.votefeliciamoore.com

(Did not respond to Questions 1-10.)

Answer 11: As our next City Council President I will be the strongest ally Atlanta's children, parents and teachers have had at City Hall. I know that Atlanta's historic gap between haves and have not's directly impacts the traceable performance relationship between success at school and poverty at home. I've been dedicated to ending Atlanta's income inequality and believe that will have a huge, tangible impact on our schools. As a Neighborhood Association President and NPU-Representative I spent years creating after school programs for at-risk youth. I'm proud the endorsement of Atlanta teachers who joined our police officers and fire fighters. I was a vocal supporter of our ESPLOST and will fight to more fully fund our kids' schools.

As as our next City Council President I will work tirelessly to make our kids safe, fully support our parents and teachers and get the City and APSA productively working together again.

Alex Wan

www.alexwanforatlanta.com

Answer 1: I am a proud graduate of the DeKalb County Public Schools and Georgia Tech and have always been strong advocate for the public schools system. In my capacity as the Atlanta City Council District 6 representative, I have worked closely with my counterpart on the Atlanta Board of Education to ensure that our actions (rezonings, infrastructure, etc.) on each respective body is coordinated and communicated as best as possible. I have also been engaged with the elementary, middle, and high schools in my district with educational programs and transportation safety concerns. Finally, I have participated in numerous joint meetings between City Council and the School Board to discuss issues of mutual concern

(legislation, attendance rezoning, etc.), and I have attended many Atlanta Public School community meetings both district-wide and Grady cluster specific.

Answer 2: One of my priorities as City Council President will be to convene regularly (not only in times of crisis) the City Council and the School Board to establish a continuing forum for exploring opportunities for collaboration and addressing challenges between our two entities. This effort is simply an extrapolation of what I am already doing at the district level with my counterpart on the School Board, Matt Westmoreland. There are many ways City Council can support our school system – improved transportation infrastructure for students to get to and from school safely, evaluation of the impact proposed developments and rezonings have on schools, coordination of after school programming and Atlanta Recreation Centers/Centers of Hope offerings – but we first must establish a reliable forum to discuss and develop ideas. We must foster culture between the two systems that is

collaborative, not adversarial, and we can start that at the Council/School Board level.

Answer 3: I am an employee of Emory University and have recused myself from City Council's deliberations and votes on this matter as I have a potential personal and financial interest in the outcome. I have consulted with the Ethics Officer regarding this question on this questionnaire, and she has advised me not to respond so as not to create a conflict of interest for having expressed an opinion on this matter (Even though I'd be answering as a candidate, I still cannot prevent that answer being construed as a position as a council member.).

Answer 4: I absolutely support partnership between the City of Atlanta and the Atlanta School System to coordinate access of facilities for recreational use. In fact, this should go both ways, where the City could explore opening up our parks facilities to the school system for use (much like the arrangement we currently have with the city's Morningside Recreation Center, and my unsuccessful attempts to get access to parks for the



Grady High School baseball team).

Answer 5: The key to these arrangements is first identifying the opportunity and then facilitating the appropriate City/School System departments to activate. The joint City Council / School Board forums would provide the forum in which this could happen. I would also charge the Community Development/Human Services Committee Chair that I appoint to aggressively pursue this idea.

I remain befuddled as to why the Reed Administration has withheld the property deeds, aside from it being simply an unfortunate and bad political decision. While many City Council members (including me) have been ready to transfer them, we are not mobilized in an effective way to push the matter harder against the administration and, more importantly, to override a mayoral veto were we able to legislatively mandate the transfer.

As City Council President, one of my first objectives is to better organize City Council and our deliberative process so that we are better prepared to take strong positions when needed. I also will work closely with the School Board Chair to apply pressure on both the Mayor's office and the departments (particularly the City Attorney, as he/she is a dual report to City Council as well) to resolve similar situations should they remain unresolved in the next administration.

Answer 6: The extended inconveniences that large events like Music Midtown create continue to frustrate me, not only because of how they negatively impact Grady High School, but also the residents in the neighborhoods adjacent to the

park. While I have worked on these challenges along with the District 2 Council member, the fact is that permitting these events and the logistics around them are operational decisions by the current administration. City Council currently is not part of that process and can do little more than merely putting pressure on event organizers to accommodate community concerns.

As City Council President, I would like to mobilize all of Council, not just the impacted district council members, in a conversation about our City's special events operations. As we continue to add greenspace throughout the city that often can serve as event sites, it is a topic that will begin impacting more districts. Among the tactics we can take to better control events large and small are: (1) adjusting our special event permitting fee structure to more accurately reflect processing costs and impact mitigation; (2) adjusting fees for lane and sidewalk closures with an escalating scale for longer durations; and (3) mandating a public input mechanism for permitting recurring events so that prior year issues (access, attendance, trash, noise, etc.) must be corrected beforehand. The key will be organizing Council to exercise this political will, particularly if we need to overcome a Mayor that is more supportive/sympathetic to the event organizers than the community.

Answer 7: I believe that tax collections and property tax assessment functions should fall within the Fulton and DeKalb counties' purview, as these responsibilities mostly rest under county jurisdictions across the state. This year's challenge was created by assessment methodology, as Fulton County's

Assessor's office tried to quickly catch up from years of undervalued assessments and their use of broad stroke extrapolations of valuation methodology across large swaths of parcels. For accuracy, assessments should be individualized to the specific lot, which is obviously a time and resource consuming endeavor. But reverting back to the previous year's valuations was a poor political decision on the part of the Fulton County Commission, as it put the jurisdictions that base their tax collections on these values in financial limbo.

With the assessment function outside its jurisdiction, there are limits to what the City can do to mitigate. That said, at a minimum, the City should pressure Fulton County to devote adequate resources to this function, including possibly engaging additional third party entities to conduct a full valuation of the parcels. We can also more directly connect our Buildings Department with their office with regard to building and renovation permit work. Finally, we should engage with the State Legislature to enact protections like tax exemptions, property tax increase caps, tax credit, and payment assistance for long-term, low- and middle-income, and senior residents to reduce the county's political urge to take similar freeze actions in the future.

Answer 8: The City's most effective tools to influence community development are through zoning code and through Buildings Department operations. Council District 6, which I represent, continues to experience much of the recent development activities, and I have been working closely with the community in attempts to address these pressures.

With zoning, our community has been pushing back against rezonings that increase density – a common temptation for developers, as more units translate to more profit for the project – or limiting increasing density to where the transportation infrastructure, especially transit, can support the additional volume. We must also value input from our neighborhood associations and NPIs when evaluating such rezonings, as they often know what's appropriate for their community.

With Buildings Department operations, it is time for us to revisit impact fees so that the city is charging developers appropriate amounts that adequately address the increased strain their projects create on the transportation infrastructure. This could also serve as somewhat of a disincentive for larger projects, or at least make them stop and think a bit.

The City also needs to continue investing in our transportation infrastructure, including expanding transit and adding pedestrian and bicycle connectivity. And with affordability, the City must continue committing resources to the tools we have put in place like buyer and renter assistance and land acquisitions to mitigate rising intown land values, while also exploring other tools like inclusionary zoning and non-financial incentives like expedited permitting to encourage developers to include affordable units in projects.

Answer 9: As a 23-year Morningside homeowner, I continue to be personally invested in the success of all of the Grady cluster schools. I have stronger relationships directly with school staff, parents, and



Atlanta Public Schools staff/representatives, having worked directly with them over the last eight years on initiatives to improve public safety, transportation infrastructure, facilities, and programs in our neighborhoods. Also, I bring a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing the cluster schools, having attended various meetings, town halls, and other forums held regarding the Grady cluster.

I have a broader history of collaboration with APS, including co-sponsoring the legislation that finally resolved the Atlanta BeltLine payment matter (which my opponent voted against!). My collaborative, solutions-driven leadership style is better suited to continue facilitating that partnership between Atlanta City Council and the Atlanta Board of Education going forward.

And, I am proud that, beginning next school year, my niece will be a student in the Grady cluster.

At-Large Post 1

No run-off

At-Large Post 2

No run-off

At-Large Post 3

No run-off

District 2

No run-off

District 3

No run-off

District 4

Jason Dozier

www.votedozier.com

(Did not respond.)

Cleta Winslow

No campaign website found

(Did not respond.)

District 5

No run-off

District 6

No run-off



<p>Question 1: Please describe your experience with public schools. (150 words)</p> <p>Question 2: As the Mayor of Atlanta, how would you support public education? (150 words)</p> <p>Question 3: Do you support the current proposal to annex Emory University, the Centers for Disease Control and</p>	<p>surrounding properties into the City of Atlanta? If so, do you believe that those annexed areas should be served by Atlanta Public Schools? Please explain your reasoning. (250 words)</p> <p>Question 4: Though the City of Atlanta and Atlanta Public Schools have long been separate entities, the City still holds the deeds to approximately 50 APS properties. In recent years, the City has</p>	<p>withheld property deeds, making it impossible for APS to sell vacant properties. What is your take on this situation, and what are your thoughts on remedying it? (250 words)</p> <p>Question 5: Property taxes collected by Fulton County account for nearly one third of the City's general fund, so when the County reacted to the outcry over 2017 assessments by returning to 2016 assessment levels, this put the City in a</p>	<p>bind. Did the City of Atlanta make a mistake in stepping away from the tax assessment function in the 1990s? How could the City be involved in preventing this kind of misstep in the future? (250 words)</p> <p>Question 6: How would you address the continued rapid growth of Atlanta's intown neighborhoods and its effects on transportation and affordable housing? (250 words)</p>
--	--	---	---

Keisha Lance Bottoms

www.keishalancebottoms.com

Answer 1: I am a graduate of Frederick Douglass High School. I've also volunteered and partnered with several schools in APS, including serving as a mentor, speaker and facilitating donations and resources.

Answer 2: I will appoint a Director of Education to serve as a proactive liaison between APS and our community partners.

Answer 3: Yes, I support the annexation. I believe that the decision to best determine how to service students in the area should be made after careful examination and input from the impacted stakeholders.

Answer 4: I believe that it is important for APS and the City of Atlanta to work together to resolve these issues in the most prudent way to serve all those involved.

Answer 5: Given the debacle of this year's tax assessments, I think it would be wise to determine what role, if any, the city should play in any future tax assessments.

Answer 6: The city needs to work to balance growth throughout the city and a way to do that is to work to improve the

quality of communities throughout the city so that families have options and look forward to living in many parts of our great City.

Mary Norwood

www.marynorwood.com

Answer 1: Throughout her career, Mary Norwood has been a strong supporter of the Atlanta Public School's mission to provide all our children with the best possible education to prepare them for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

Answer 2: As mayor Mary Norwood will support the Atlanta School Board in its mission to provide quality education. Mary will collaborate with and support the APS, working with the Atlanta Police Department, Parks and Recreation Department and other city and county departments and non-profits. Renovating and reconfiguring city recreation centers in targeted neighborhoods to serve as a safe and secure haven after school, weekend and on school breaks for after school mentoring/tutoring by APS, SAT prep, college and technical school counseling, proving a location for personal counseling

and health and wellness programs supported by the Fulton County Department of Health, serving as the space for a range of athletic and creative activities.

Answer 3: Mary Norwood supports the Emory University, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and CDC annexation as a positive addition to a long list of institutions that further enhance and enrich our city and its ability to attract relocating corporations, national NGO headquarters, additions to the city's arts and culture and university community, and more of the people who may choose to settle in Atlanta because of all it can offer them and their families.

Answer 4: As mayor Mary Norwood will review this question and make a recommendation to city council. It is not possible to provide the best response to this question until you are in city hall and have all of the relevant stakeholders and facts before you.

Answer 5: Mary Norwood supports a legislative solution to the property appraisal and assessment question brought to the forefront by this year's property tax crisis. She will work with other city officials and county, APS and state officials to find the best long term solution

that will provide a steady and predictable stream of tax revenue for local government and peace of mind for city taxpayers.

Answer 6: Mary Norwood realizes that Atlanta will continue to grow and the best solution to the transportation challenges we all of confronted with every day and will face into the future require the collaboration of all relevant local governments and state and regions departments and agencies including Marta. A synchronization of traffic signals, installation of light rail Marta lines, reconfigured bus routes and other solutions together can bring some relief but so long as so many of us continue to rely on automobiles to commute to and from work congestion will require new innovative solutions be considered and adopted.