

Abundant Housing Atlanta Candidate Questionnaire Responses (2025)

District 3

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What policies do you believe would be the most impactful in advancing the premises outlined in the Atlanta City Design?

The Atlanta City Design reminds us that growth is both inevitable and an opportunity. To meet this challenge, I believe several policies are most impactful.

First, we must expand affordable housing, protect longtime residents from displacement, and support mixed income developments. Stronger tenant protections, inclusionary zoning, and targeted investments can help ensure growth benefits everyone.

Second, we need to modernize infrastructure. That includes repairing roads and sidewalks, upgrading water systems to prevent flooding, and expanding public transit so growth does not worsen congestion or pollution. Green infrastructure and complete streets will make our neighborhoods safer and more resilient.

Third, growth must be equitable. That means supporting small businesses, creating access to good jobs, and ensuring working families and communities of color are included in Atlanta's prosperity.

Finally, growth should be guided by residents. By investing in participatory planning and transparency, we can ensure change reflects our shared values.

If we design it well, growth can build a stronger, more diverse, and more connected Atlanta where everyone has a place in the city's future.

What is your position on increasing the types of housing (duplexes, triplexes, townhomes, cottage courts etc.) that can be built by-right (i.e. without re-zonings)?

I support increasing the types of housing that can be built by right in neighborhoods with access to transit, schools, parks, and other amenities. Allowing duplexes, triplexes, townhomes, and cottage courts expands affordability, strengthens neighborhood diversity, and helps meet the demand of a growing population without pushing families out of the city.

Atlanta has to grow smarter, not just bigger. By-right zoning for a wider range of housing creates predictability for residents and developers, reduces the costs and delays associated with rezonings, and allows us to add density in a thoughtful way. This must go hand in hand with strong protections against displacement, so that longtime residents can stay and benefit from neighborhood investments.

I believe these steps, combined with investments in infrastructure and transit, will create more thriving and walkable communities while preserving Atlanta's character and ensuring growth is inclusive.

What parts of your district do you see as priority areas for more dense housing? Please be specific: specific neighborhoods, cross streets, etc.

In District 3, density should be prioritized along major corridors where residents have access to transit and amenities. Areas along Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway, Joseph E. Boone Boulevard, and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive are well suited for more housing.

Near Ashby MARTA Station, Vine City MARTA Station, and Bankhead MARTA Station, new housing can strengthen walkable neighborhoods and connect more residents to jobs, parks, and the BeltLine. This growth must be paired with protections against displacement so longtime residents can remain in their communities.

Are there any parts of your district where you think housing growth should NOT be allowed? Please be specific: specific neighborhoods, cross streets, etc.

Housing growth should not be directed to parts of the district that do not have the infrastructure to handle it. In areas of Vine City and English Avenue near Proctor Creek, flooding and drainage issues need to be fixed before adding more housing. Growth should be focused on corridors with transit and services, while vulnerable blocks should first receive investment to improve living conditions and protect current residents.

What are you hearing from your potential constituents about their hopes, fears, aspirations, and frustrations about this potential growth?

Residents I talk to share both excitement and concern about growth. Many want to see amenities that other parts of the city already enjoy, like a grocery store, a gym, safe parks, and more places to gather as a community. At the same time, there is real fear about being priced out. Longtime residents worry about rising rents, higher property taxes, and displacement as new development comes in.

The hope is that growth will finally bring long overdue investment into District 3, but the frustration is that too often these changes have come at the expense of the people who built these neighborhoods. My job is to make sure growth delivers opportunity without forcing residents out of the place they call home.

Oftentimes, proposed developments that could help increase housing supply - including the affordable housing supply - for the City are met with intense local opposition. How will you balance the opinions of existing local neighbors with the overall needs of the City?

believe the best way to balance neighborhood concerns with the city's housing needs is through collaboration and transparency. Too often residents feel decisions are made without their input, which fuels opposition. My approach is to engage neighbors early and often, listen to their concerns, and make sure they understand how proposed developments can benefit both the community and the city as a whole.

That means creating real opportunities for dialogue, not just one meeting. It also means working with developers to address issues like traffic, flooding, or design so new housing adds value to the neighborhood. When residents see clear benefits such as better infrastructure, new amenities, or stronger affordability protections, they are more likely to support growth.

How should we fund our local affordable housing trust fund? Please be specific about which local sources Atlanta should consider.

Atlanta's affordable housing trust fund should be supported through dedicated, reliable local sources. One way is to dedicate a portion of the revenue generated in Tax Allocation Districts directly to the trust fund, so that when neighborhoods grow and property values rise, part of that benefit is reinvested into affordable housing. I also support leveraging social impact bonds and other innovative financing tools to bring private and philanthropic capital to the table, with repayment tied to measurable housing outcomes.

Every analysis of our City that looks at our needs by neighborhood identifies a divide, where some neighborhoods are amenity-rich (jobs, restaurants, grocery stores, medical services) and lack a high supply of affordable housing, while others lack many of those same amenities but offer relatively more affordable housing. How will you create City-wide policies that reflect these differences?

In amenity rich neighborhoods, the priority should be adding more housing near transit, jobs, and services. That means allowing a wider range of housing types by right, using inclusionary zoning to secure affordability, and pairing growth with protections like property tax relief and home repair assistance so longtime residents can stay.

In neighborhoods that lack amenities, the focus should be on investments first, fixing infrastructure, improving transit, supporting grocery access, and adding parks and services. Once those are in place, new housing can follow through mixed use zoning and community land trusts to ensure affordability.

As the City continues to observe thousands of Atlantans experiencing homelessness each year, how will you approach preventing bouts of homelessness and rehousing your constituents?

I believe Atlanta must take a housing first approach to addressing homelessness. Stable housing is the foundation for connecting people with services, jobs, and long term stability. That means investing in permanent supportive housing, rental assistance, and stronger partnerships with nonprofits that already do this work well.

Prevention is just as important. I support adding neighborhood based case managers who can work directly with families and individuals before they fall into crisis, connecting them to resources like emergency rental help, utility assistance, and mental health care.

Finally, I do not support the harmful practice of encampment sweeps, which push people from one corner of the city to another without addressing the root causes. Instead, we must pair outreach with real housing options and ensure that every Atlantan has a safe place to call home.

The City of Atlanta has begun implementing some innovative solutions to its homelessness problem, including using shipping containers as temporary shelter. How will you ensure that these efforts are able to grow and that neighborhoods across the City are part of the solution to our homelessness problem?

Innovative approaches like shipping container shelters can help, but they must be paired with a housing first model and a clear path to permanent housing. To grow these efforts, the City should dedicate funding, partner with service providers, and include wraparound support. By engaging neighborhoods with transparency and showing how these solutions are safe and well managed, we can build trust and ensure every part of Atlanta is part of addressing homelessness.

Are there other policies you will advance to promote housing stability for existing residents?

Yes. I will advance policies that keep people in their homes and protect the stability of our neighborhoods. That includes property tax relief and repair assistance for longtime homeowners, stronger tenant protections to prevent unjust evictions, expanding rental assistance, investing in community land trusts to preserve affordability, and partnering with the magistrate court's landlord tenant working group to improve how disputes are resolved and prevent unnecessary displacement. These tools will help ensure residents are not pushed out as Atlanta grows.

111 Moreland Ave: In 2023, the Reynoldstown Civic Improvement League's (RCIL) overwhelmingly voted in opposition to a proposal to build 42 homes for formerly homeless individuals (more details on the project here).

Incumbents: how did you vote on this proposal?

Non-Incumbents: given the information in the articles above, how would you have voted on this proposal?

Support

Please provide any rationale or considerations for how you voted / would have voted on 111 Moreland Ave.

If I had been on Council, I would have voted yes on the 111 Moreland Avenue proposal. Atlanta cannot afford to turn away opportunities to provide stable housing for people who have experienced homelessness. Forty two homes with supportive services would have made a real difference for individuals and for the city as a whole.

I understand the concerns raised by neighbors, but I believe those concerns can be addressed

through collaboration, transparency, and strong management of the site. What cannot be ignored is the urgent need for permanent housing solutions.

In 2025, City Council voted on a mixed use development proposal on Amsterdam Walk, which included retail and 1,100 apartments, including over 200 affordable apartments, in the Virginia Highlands neighborhood near the Beltline.

Incumbents: how did you vote on this proposal?

Non-Incumbents: given the information in the articles above, how would you have voted on this proposal?

Abstain / Not Present

Please provide any rationale or considerations for how you voted / would have voted on Amsterdam Walk

On the Amsterdam Walk proposal, I would have abstained. While I strongly support the intention and impact of adding more housing and affordable units in a high opportunity neighborhood, too many residents felt their voices were not being heard in the process. For major projects to succeed, we have to balance the city's need for housing with genuine community engagement, and in this case I would have stepped back until that trust was built.

In 2022, a project, "Edgewood for Everyone," was proposed to build 48 homes on Whitefoord Ave. in the Edgewood neighborhood, 25% of which would have been priced at 60% area median income without government subsidy. A small group of neighbors loudly opposed the project during the Organized Neighbors of Edgewood zoning committee, resulting in the developers abandoning the proposal. Instead, they built housing that aligns with the existing zoning: 6 homes priced around \$900K each.

Do you believe that this is the preferred outcome?

No

Why do you/do you not believe this is the preferred outcome? What alternative process do you believe these kinds of projects should follow to result in a preferred outcome?

I would have voted yes on the Edgewood for Everyone proposal. Building 48 homes, with a quarter of them affordable at 60 percent of area median income without subsidy, would have created real opportunities for families who are otherwise priced out of neighborhoods like Edgewood.

Why is housing affordability personal to you?

Housing affordability is personal to me because I have seen how it shapes opportunity, stability, and dignity in people's lives. I have family, friends, and neighbors who work hard every day but still struggle to find or keep a safe, affordable place to live. I know what it feels like to worry about rent, rising costs, and whether you can stay rooted in the community you love. Everyone deserves the security of knowing they can afford a home in Atlanta, and that belief drives my commitment to fight for housing affordability.

What work have you done to advocate for housing?

have had the privilege of working on housing issues at the federal level in Senator Raphael Warnock's office. In that role, I supported efforts to expand rental assistance, protect tenants from eviction, and secure federal resources to strengthen affordable housing programs in Georgia. I saw firsthand how federal policy can provide vital tools, but also how much depends on strong local leadership to make those tools work on the ground.

Is there anything else you'd like us to know about you as we consider our endorsement?

I am running for City Council because I believe Atlanta can grow without leaving people behind. My campaign is rooted in building safer streets, stronger neighborhoods, and real opportunities for working families. I bring both policy experience from my time in Senator Warnock's office and deep community ties here in District 3.

I have been endorsed by the Working Families Party and the LGBTQ Victory Fund because of my commitment to equity, inclusion, and justice. I am ready to work with residents, community leaders, and advocates to make sure every Atlantan has a voice in shaping our city's future. Your endorsement would be an important part of building the coalition we need to deliver on that vision.