

GETTING OUR MONEY'S WORTH

MEET BASIC CITY OBLIGATIONS

- ◆ Atlanta taxpayers have the right to expect that our tax dollars will be properly used for the efficient and effective delivery of city services. With the growth Atlanta is experiencing, the task of meeting basic city obligations becomes even more critical. We are responsible for water, trash and public safety – and the infrastructure to deliver those services.
- ◆ As Mayor, I will work with the CFO to create a multi-year strategic and financial plan. Multi-year planning is the most responsible approach for financial planning. City leaders need to set long-term financial goals to avoid future financial stress.
- ◆ I will require a fiscal performance plan that includes: projections of fiscal condition under current policy, annual deficits/surpluses, reserves/fund balances and a description of proposed policy changes to improve future fiscal condition (a fiscal improvement plan and a fiscal accountability report)
- ◆ I will create the Accountability Atlanta website, which will include quarterly reports on our fiscal improvement, post the annual budget and give taxpayers access to our multi-year financial plan.
- ◆ To secure the future Atlanta deserves, the City cannot continue to fail to address our widespread infrastructure needs. We need to replace our aging infrastructure and commit to building the new infrastructure we will need to support our growth.
- ◆ I support a two-part plan to address this backlog. First, we must develop a schedule to address the accumulated backlog of projects and maintenance that is overdue. This means fixing our most critical problems first. Second, we need to develop a long-term plan to fund our infrastructure. I will create a task force to assess options and develop a set of actionable recommendations. We cannot allow the City's infrastructure to deteriorate any further.

TRIM NON-ESSENTIAL SPENDING

- ◆ The City needs to be more creative in how it delivers services and trim spending where we can. Over my term as City Council President, the City has hired outside firms to manage public vending, on-street parking enforcement, and a variety of other services that have saved us money and improved service. We need to be more aggressive in finding alternative means for delivering services.
- ◆ The City also needs to be much more thoughtful about the businesses we choose to be in. I have been an advocate of consolidating services other jurisdictions so that we can reduce the burden on taxpayers. We need to look for more opportunities where we can combine resources and save money.

CREATE NEW REVENUE STREAMS

- ◆ Unlike many cities in the country, the City of Atlanta has only property and sale taxes. Other major cities have commuter taxes, corporate income taxes, or parking taxes which allows them to collect revenues from those who use city services but do not live in the city. We have no way of recovering costs incurred by visitors who use our services. This is a two-legged stool that cannot stand.
- ◆ As Mayor, I will advocate for local POS collection of sales taxes already paid but uncollected. I will also examine the collection rates for 100+ types of fees and other charges, and make sure we are getting every dime.
- ◆ I will monetize city assets, like turning our top-rated police and fire academies into profit centers and purchasing public safety equipment in bulk with other regions.
- ◆ We also need to make sure we are charging the right amount for the services we provide. There are dozens of services whose fees have not be adjusted (in some case for decades) and we need to revisit those fees and adjust them accordingly.