Potential Candidates:

As the City of Atlanta Municipal Clerk/Election Superintendent, it is my goal to provide you with as much pertinent information as possible regarding the City of Atlanta’s General Municipal Election.

Although the actual process of qualifying to become a candidate is simple enough, the entirety of matters related to the election and your candidacy is multi-jurisdictional and may be a bit overwhelming. This website provides comprehensive information for anyone seeking office and is compiled into a one-stop shop for the following office:

- City of Atlanta Mayor
- City of Atlanta Council President
- City of Atlanta Districts and At-Large Council Members
- City of Atlanta Board of Education Districts and At-Large Members

The entire staff of the Office of Municipal Clerk is dedicated to providing all interested persons with answers to frequently asked questions that arise during the campaign period. If you have any questions regarding the City of Atlanta General Municipal Election process, please feel free to visit the office in person at 55 Trinity Avenue, Suite 2700, email us at municipalclerk@atlantaga.gov or call our Election Hotline at (404) 330-6500.

Sincerely,

Foris Webb III
Municipal Clerk/Election Superintendent
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Definitions

**Candidate:** An individual who seeks nomination for election or election to any public office, whether or not such an individual is elected; and a person shall be deemed to seek nomination or election if such person has taken necessary action under the laws of this state to qualify such person for nomination for election or election or has received any contributions or made any expenditures in pursuit of such nomination or election or has given such person's consent for such person's campaign committee to receive contributions or make expenditures with a view to bringing about such person's nomination for election or election to such office. O.C.G.A. 21-5-3(4)

**Contribution:** A gift, subscription, membership, loan, forgiveness of debt, advance or deposit of money or anything of value conveyed or transferred for the purpose of influencing the nomination for election or election of any person for office, bringing about the recall of a public officer holding elective office, or opposing the recall of a public officer holding elective office, or the influencing of voter approval or rejection of a proposed constitutional amendment, a statewide referendum, or a proposed question which is to appear on the ballot in this state or in a county or a municipal election in this state. The term specifically shall not include the value of personal services performed by persons who serve without compensation from any source and on a voluntary basis. The term "contribution" shall include other forms of payment made to candidates for office or who hold office when such fees and compensation made can be reasonably construed as a campaign contribution designed to encourage or influence a candidate or public officer holding elective office. The term "contribution" shall also encompass transactions wherein a qualifying fee required of the candidate is furnished or paid by anyone other than the candidate. O.C.G.A. 21-5-3(7)

**Election Cycle:** The period from the day following the date of an election or appointment of a person to elective public office through and including the date of the next such election of a person to the same public office and shall be construed and applied separately for each elective office. O.C.G.A. 21-5-3(10)

**Election Year:** Shall be construed and applied separately for each elective office and means for each elective office the calendar year during which a regular or special election to fill such office is held. O.C.G.A. 21-5-3(11)

**Expenditure:** A purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or any transfer of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the nomination for election or election of any person, bringing about the recall of a public officer holding elective office or opposing the recall of a public officer holding elective office, or the influencing of voter approval or rejection of a proposed constitutional amendment, a
state-wide referendum, or a proposed CFA 11-30-2018 3 question which is to appear on the ballot in this state or in a county or a municipal election in this state. The term specifically shall not include the value of personal services performed by persons who serve without compensation from any source and on a voluntary basis. The term "expenditure" shall also include the payment of a qualifying fee for and on behalf of a candidate. O.C.G.A. 21-5-3 (12)

Nonelection Year: Shall be construed and applied separately for each elective office and means for each elective office any calendar year during which there is no regular or special election to fill such office. O.C.G.A. 21-5-3 (17.1)

Public Official: Every elected state, county, and municipal official, including every elected member of a local board of education. O.C.G.A. 21-5-3(22)(F) & (G)

Qualifying Officer: Person who qualifies a candidate for an election. O.C.G.A. 21-5-3(23)

Reporting Period: The period of time beginning the day after the last report due date, excluding any grace period, through the due date of the next report. O.C.G.A. 21-5-3(24)

Please note that as the General Assembly meets yearly the code may change without notice.

You may view additional information within the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Act (Act) at:


DISCLAIMER

If you have questions about the current status of the Act please direct all questions to:

Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Act
200 Piedmont Avenue SE
Suite 1416 West Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-463-1980 (phone)
404-463-1988 (fax)
gaethics@ethics.g.gov (email)
**Date of Next Municipal General Election**

November 2, 2021 – OCGA 21-2-9 (c)

(c) All general municipal elections to fill municipal offices shall be held on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November in each odd-numbered year. Public notice of such elections shall be published by the governing authority of the municipality in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality at least 30 days prior to the elections. In addition, the municipality shall immediately transmit a copy of such notice to the Secretary of State.

Municipal general elections in the City of Atlanta are held in odd numbered years and occur every four (2025, 2029, 2033 ...) years.

**Poll Operating Hours**

7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. O.C.G.A. 21-2-403

At all primaries and elections the polls shall be opened at 7:00 A.M. eastern standard time or eastern daylight time, whichever is applicable, and shall remain open continuously until 7:00 P.M. eastern standard time or eastern daylight time, whichever is applicable, at which time they shall be closed; provided, however, that, in all cities having a population of 300,000 or more according to the United States decennial census of 1970 or any future such census, the polls shall remain open continuously until 8:00 P.M. eastern standard time or eastern daylight time, whichever is applicable, during the cities general elections, at which time they shall be closed and provided, further, that, in a special election held to fill a vacancy in an office in which the district represented by such office lies wholly within the boundaries of a city, the polls shall close at the same time as for a municipal general election in such city.

**Office(s) and Number of Seats to be Filled**

- **Positions to be Elected by City Wide Voters**
  - Mayor (1)
  - City Council President (1)
  - City Council Member Post At Large (3)
  - Board of Education Member Districts At Large (3)

- **Positions to be Elected by Specific District Voters**
  - City Council Member Districts (12)
  - Board of Education Member Districts (6)
As taken from the Charter of the City of Atlanta

- **Mayor**

  **Section 3-1-1. Election; term; limitation of term**
  
The Mayor shall be elected from the city at-large for a term of four years commencing on the first Monday in January after each regular municipal election, and he or she shall serve until his or her successor has taken office. Any mayor who has been elected for two consecutive four-year terms under the provisions of this Charter shall not be eligible to be elected for the succeeding term.


  **Section 3-102. Qualifications.**

  (a) To qualify for election as mayor, a person:
  1. Must be at least 18 years of age;
  2. Must be a resident of the city for at least one year immediately preceding the date of his or her filing of notice of candidacy to seek office;
  3. Must be a qualified elector of the city; and
  4. Must not be an employee of the city.

  (b) To hold office as mayor, a person:
  1. Must continue to possess the qualifications prescribed in section 3-102(a); and
  2. Must not hold any other elective public office or hold any position of employment with the State of Georgia, any county thereof, or with the city.

As taken from the Charter of the City of Atlanta

- **City Council President**

Section 2-201. Election; term.

The president of the council shall be elected from the city at-large for a term of four years commencing on the first Monday in January after each regular municipal election as provided in this Charter and shall serve until his or her successor has taken office.

Section 2-202. Qualifications.

(a) To qualify for election as president of the council, a person:
   c.) Must be at least 18 years of age;
   c.) Must be a resident of the city for at least one year immediately preceding the date of his or her filing of notice of candidacy to seek office;
   c.) Must be a qualified elector of the city; and
   c.) Must not be an employee of the city.

(b) To hold office as president of the council, a person:
   c.) Must continue to possess the qualifications in section 2-202(a); and
   c.) Must not hold any elective public office.

Election, Terms, Composition and Qualifications

As taken from the Charter of the City of Atlanta

- **Council Member**

Section 2-101. Composition; term of office.

Effective with the regular municipal elections of November, 1997, the qualified electors of the city shall elect 15 representatives, in accordance with the provisions of this Charter, to serve as a city council. Twelve representatives shall be elected from 12 individual council districts apportioned in accordance with the provisions of this Charter. Three representatives shall be elected at-large and shall represent residency posts as follows:

  - Post 1 which shall consist of contiguous Council Districts 1 through 4;
  - Post 2 which shall consist of contiguous Council Districts 5 through 8; and
  - Post 3 which shall consist of contiguous Council Districts 9 through 12.

At large representatives must be residents of the residency posts from which they are elected.


Section 2-102. Qualifications.

(a) To qualify for election as a councilmember, a person:

1. Must be at least 18 years of age
2. Must be a resident of the city and of the council district from which he or she seeks to qualify for at least one year immediately preceding the date of his or her filing of notice of candidacy to seek office;
3. Must be a qualified elector of the city; and
4. Must not be an employee of the city.
(b) To hold office as a councilmember, a person:

1. Must continue to possess the qualifications prescribed in subsection (a) of this section;

2. Must, if elected from one council district or residency post, continue to reside in the same council district or post from which elected; and

3. Must not hold any other elective public office.

(c) The one-year residency requirement as provided in subparagraph (a)(2) herein shall not be applicable to persons seeking election to the council if this Charter is amended by the General Assembly reapportioning council districts of the city. Under such circumstances, person seeking election to the council must have been a resident of the city and the council district from which he or she seeks to qualify for at least six months.

(d) The council shall be the judge of the qualifications of its members.

(e) Whenever the terms “reside”, “residence”, or “residency” appear in this section, the same shall be interpreted to mean his or her domicile.

Election, Terms, Composition and Qualifications

As taken from the Charter of the Atlanta Independent School System
(Senate Bill 204, 2003: as amended by House Bill 241, 2013)

- **Board of Education Member.**

  The Atlanta Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “board) shall be composed of nine members elected in nonpartisan elections. Three members shall be elected citywide and six members shall be elected from districts as provided within this Act. Members of the board shall hold their respective offices for a term of four years and until their respective successors are elected and qualified


  Sect. 4.5-127. Qualifications

  (a) To qualify for election as a board member, a person must:

  1. Be at least 18 years of age
  2. Be a resident of the city and, if seeking to represent a Board district, be a resident of the board district from which he or she seeks to qualify and represent for at least one year immediately preceding the date of filing a notice of candidacy to seek office;
  3. Be a qualified elector of the city; and
  4. Not be an employee of the state department of education or a member of the state board of education.

  (b) To hold office as a board member, a person must:

  1. Continue to possess the qualifications prescribed in subsection (a) herein;
  2. Continue to reside in the board district from which elected;
  3. Not hold any other elective public offices; and
  4. Not be an employee of the Atlanta Board of Education or any other local board of education.

Steps to Consider When Exploring Candidacy and/or Running for Office

1. If you desire initial discussion regarding navigating the process, contact Foris Webb III, City of Atlanta Municipal Clerk/Election Superintendent, at fwebb@atlantaga.gov or 404 330 6500,

2. Review and familiarize yourself with the State of Georgia Election Code. The Georgia Secretary of State Election Division Office is a helpful resource.
   - State of Georgia Secretary of State and select “Elections”- (http://sos.ga.gov)

3. Visit the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission’s (formerly known as the State Ethics Commission) website (http://ethics.ga.gov).
   - Schedule time for training with the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission and review the required filing schedule

4. File a Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions (DOI) with the Municipal Clerk/Election Superintendent by completing, signing and returning the attached DOI to the Office of Municipal Clerk.

5. Register your campaign committee (if one exists) with the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission. (Registration Form for a Campaign Committee for a Candidate -Form RC)

6. Complete the City of Atlanta Electronic Filing Application for filing the CCDR and PFD (Candidates/Elected Officials/Account Managers) and mail or hand deliver to Office of Municipal Clerk, 55 Trinity Avenue Suite 2700, Atlanta, GA 30303 (To be added to website in forms packet)

   (a.) If considering candidacy for Mayor, City Council President, or City Council Member, review pertinent City of Atlanta Charter and Code Sections. (https://www.municode.com/library/ga/atlanta/codes/code_of_ordinances)

   (b.) If considering candidacy for Board of Education Member review the following link. (http://www.boarddocs.com/ga/aps/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=qBZU3W7A2760)
7. Begin campaigning.

(Note – Filing a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement Report (PFDS) 15 days after qualifying is only required by those public officials that are currently holding an office. New candidates electing to run for office are not required to file the PFDS per O.C.G.A.§ 21-5-50(a)(3.1)).

Public officer is defined in subparagraphs (F) and (G) of 21-5-3 paragraph 22 of the Campaign Finance Act.

8. Thereafter, file all required disclosure reports with the Municipal Clerk\Election Superintendent by the required deadlines noted below. As deadlines approach, a courtesy reminder notification may be sent to you at the personal or campaign e-mail address you provided upon your submission of your DOI.

- Non-Election Year Filing Schedule
  - June 30th
  - December 31st

- Election Year Filing Schedule
  - January 31st
  - April 30th
  - June 30th
  - September 30th
  - October 25th
  - December 31st

9. Qualify to place your name on the ballot as a candidate; or certify your write-in candidacy.
Qualify to Place Name on the Ballot

Persons seeking to place their names on the ballot for election shall qualify to fill the aforementioned offices

Where: Atlanta City Hall
Office of Municipal Clerk
55 Trinity Avenue SW Suite 2700
Atlanta, GA 30303

When: TBA

How: Qualifying steps include:

a.) Filing a Notice of Candidacy and Affidavit with the Municipal Clerk/Election Superintendent or designated agent.

AND

b.) Paying a set qualifying fee to the Municipal Clerk/Election Superintendent or designated agent for the desired office as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Salary</th>
<th>Qualifying Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayor</td>
<td>$184,300.00</td>
<td>$5,529.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Council President</td>
<td>$62,000.00</td>
<td>$1,860.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Council Member</td>
<td>$60,300.00</td>
<td>$1,809.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Education Member</td>
<td>$14,800.00</td>
<td>$444.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OR

c.) Qualifying as a Pauper - Filing a Qualifying Petition and a Pauper's Affidavit, with the Municipal Clerk/Election Superintendent or designated agent, affirming under oath the candidate's poverty or inability to pay the qualifying fee as required by O.C.G.A. §21-2-132(h).

1. A Qualifying Petition must be signed by 1% (one percent) of the total number of voters eligible to vote in the last elections for filing of the office for which the candidate is qualifying.
2. Pauper's Affidavit

Note: Qualifying as a Pauper does not negate the obligation to file disclosure reports or to comply fully with the Georgia Campaign Finance Act. O.C.G.A. § 21-5-1, et seq.
OR

Declare Write-In Candidacy

Persons seeking to be a certified Write-In Candidate shall:
   a.) File a Notice of Intention of write-in candidacy with the Municipal Clerk/Election Superintendent or designated agent; and publish such notice in the official gazette of the municipality (Fulton County Daily Report) no earlier than (TBD) and no later than 7 days after regular qualifying period ends (TBD).

And

   b.) Submit an affidavit stating that the notice has been published including the name of the newspaper and date of publication not later than the 5th day after the deadline of filing and publishing such notice (TBD).

Note: Qualifying as a Write-In candidate does not negate the obligation to file disclosure reports or to comply fully with the Georgia Campaign Finance Act. O.C.G.A. §§ 21-5-1, et seq.
City Employee or City Board, Authority, Commission Etc. Member Offering for Elective Office and Political Activity Participation

As Taken from the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinance

Sec. 114-2. - Standards of conduct prescribed; penalty for violation.

(a) Any employee offering for election to the office of mayor, president of the city council or member of the city council shall resign from the employee's position with the city, and such resignation shall be effective as of the date upon which such person files with the office of the municipal clerk, her/his "Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions" as prescribed by the state ethics commission, or as of the date upon which such person files with the office of the municipal clerk, her/his "Notice of Candidacy and Affidavit", and pays the required qualifying fee, or files a pauper's affidavit in lieu thereof, as prescribed by O.C.G.A. Sec. 21-2-132, or,

If a write-in candidate, the date upon which such person files with the office of the municipal clerk, her/his "Notice of Intent of Write-In Candidacy", as prescribed by O.C.G.A. Sec. 21-2-133, whichever first occurs.

(b) If an employee of the city offers for an elective office, other than those indicated in subsection (a) of this section, and the employee desires a leave of absence or, in the opinion of the department head, the campaign for the office will conflict with the employee's duties or work hours, the employee shall take a leave of absence as provided by section 114-422.

(c) No employee shall offer for an elective office without having first filed a written notification, with such employee's department head, of the employee's intent to file as a candidate for elective office. Such notification shall state the office the employee intends to seek, the governmental jurisdiction of the office, the dates of filing for candidacy and the date of the election.

(d) Should such employee be elected to an office which the department head determines interferes with or affects the employee's duties or hours of city employment, a separation shall be required at a time to be determined by the department head.

(e) No employee, official or person shall knowingly solicit any assessments, contributions or services for any political party or candidate from any employee of the city.

(f) Nothing in this section shall affect the right of the employee to hold membership or office in or support a political party and to vote as the employee chooses.

(g) For the purposes of this section only, a public elected official of the city shall not be considered an employee except for subsection (e) of this section. However, if any member or officer of a commission, council or board created by the city or appointed or confirmed by an elected official or officials of the city, and is not then currently serving as an elected official of the city, or the chair or officer of any neighborhood planning unit or an elected neighborhood planning unit committee member, offers
for election to the office of mayor, president of the city council or member of the city council, such member, officer or chair shall resign from such position with any such commission, council or board, or with the neighborhood planning unit. Such resignation shall be effective as of the date upon which such person files with the office of the municipal clerk, her/his "Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions" as prescribed by the State Ethics Commission, or as of the date upon which such person files with the office of the municipal clerk, her/his "Notice of Candidacy and Affidavit", and pays the required qualifying fee, or files a pauper's affidavit in lieu thereof, as prescribed by O.C.G.A. Sec. 21-2-132, or, if a write-in candidate, the date upon which such person files with the office of the municipal clerk, her/his "Notice of Intent of Write-In Candidacy," as prescribed by O.C.G.A. Sec. 21-2-133, whichever first occurs.

(h) No person shall in any manner prevent or attempt to prevent the impartial execution of this chapter or policies or rules promulgated under this chapter.

(i) No person shall, directly or indirectly, give, render, pay, offer, solicit or accept any money, service or valuable consideration for any appointment, proposed appointment, promotion or proposed promotion or any advantage in any position with the city.

(j) No person shall defeat, deceive or obstruct any person in such person's right of application, eligibility, certification or appointment under this chapter or furnish to any person any special or secret information for the purpose of affecting the rights or prospects of any person with respect to employment in the classified service.

(k) Employees of the city shall be subject to the following rules and regulations concerning political activity:

   (1) No officer or employee shall use official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of any election or the nomination for any office.

   (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the right of an employee to express privately the employee's opinions on all political subjects and candidates, to maintain political neutrality and to attend political meetings after working hours.

   (3) All employees shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Federal Hatch Political Activities Act as amended by the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1974, and any subsequent amendments thereto.

(l) Any person who shall violate subsection (h), (i) or (j) of this section shall, for the period of five years, be ineligible for appointment to or employment in a position with the city, and any officer or employee who shall violate any such subsection shall be dismissed from any office or position held by such officer or employee.

(Ord. No. 2007-22(06-O-2700), § 1, 3-27-07; Ord. No. 2009-50(09-O-1311), § 1, 9-8-09)
GAHB - Employees Seeking and Holding Political Offices

Employees of the Atlanta Board of Education are expected to exercise their rights of franchise and assume the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship under the American democratic way of life.

In the event an employee of the Board wishes to qualify or become a candidate for public office, he/she may be granted a leave of absence without pay for the purpose of campaigning for such office. However, a leave of absence is not mandatory, with the proviso that the employee shall not engage in any political or campaign activity on his/her own behalf or on behalf of any other candidate during regular working hours or on Board time.

The Superintendent or his/her designee may administratively place an employee on involuntary leave of absence if it is determined at any point during a campaign period that the employee’s campaign effort interferes with the successful performance of his/her assigned duties. The Superintendent’s action may be appealed by the employee to the Board.

If the employee is elected to membership on the Board, he/she shall either retire or resign, effective the day following installation in office. Continued employment with the Board upon successful election to any other public office shall be governed by the capacity of the employee to perform his/her job duties while holding public office and by the relationship of the Board to the other governmental agency and the City Charter. Brief, occasional absences may be accommodated through the Board’s regular personal leave policy. Extended, prolonged, or regular absences prohibiting the successful completion of assigned duties shall be cause administratively to arrange an extended leave of absence for the employee in accordance with the Board’s leave policy.

Date Adopted: 6/1/1976
Last Revised: 4/16/1990

Legal citations:

- 18 USC 1951 Interference with commerce by threats or violence
- 42 USC 1973c Alteration of voting qualifications and procedures; action by State or political subdivision for dec
- 42 USC 1971 Voting Rights Act, Sec. 5
ELECTION CONTACT INFORMATION

City of Atlanta
Office of Municipal Clerk
Foris Webb III, CMC
Municipal Clerk/Election Superintendent
55 Trinity Street
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 330-6500 (phone)
(404) 494-1751 (fax)

Office Hours: MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Atlanta Elections Email: atlantaelections@atlantaga.gov

City of Atlanta Website: www.atlantaga.gov

City of Atlanta Electronic Disclosure Filing System: https://atlantacity.easyvotecampaignfinance.com/home

For Technical Support Contact
Evelyn M. Scott
55 Trinity Street
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 330-6500 (phone)

State of Georgia
Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division
2 MLK Jr. Dr., SE
Suite 1104 West Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334
(404) 656-2871 (phone)
(404) 657-2248 (fax)
http://sos.ga.gov

Official Code of Georgia
ELECTION CONTACT INFORMATION CONTINUED

Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission (Ethics)
200 Piedmont Avenue SE
Suite 1416 West Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 463-1980 (phone)
(404) 463-1988 (fax)

http://ethics.ga.gov

Fulton County Department of Registration and Elections
141 Pryor Street, SW Suite 4075
Atlanta, GA 30303-3460
(404) 612-7020 (phone)
(404) 730-7024 (fax)

http://fultoncountyga.gov/rae-board-of-registration-and-elections

DeKalb County Department of Registration and Elections
4380 Memorial Drive, Suite 300
Decatur, GA 30032
(404) 298-4020 (phone)
(404) 298-4038 (fax)

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

http://web.co.dekalb.ga.us/Voter/default.html