



Historic Westside Platform – 2017 City of Atlanta Mayoral Election

The Historic Westside Platform is a non-partisan advocacy effort to foster a thriving Historic Westside. This platform has been crafted to assess mayoral candidates on their commitments to restoring the strength of the Historic Westside through City of Atlanta initiatives.

The Historic Westside Platform is sponsored by the Westside Future Fund and Historic Westside neighborhood associations: Ashview Heights Community Association, Atlanta University Center Neighborhood Association, Booker T. Washington Community Association, English Avenue Neighborhood Association, Just Us Neighbors, and Vine City Civic Association.

The platform aligns with the four impact areas that the Westside Future Fund has identified as having the most immediate impact on the creation of thriving communities and that will lay the foundation for other initiatives.

Historic Westside Impact Areas

I. SAFETY AND SECURITY

A strong community starts with residents feeling safe. Neighborhoods thrive when residents can walk to school, work, parks or stores and when they know and trust those who protect and serve them.

To achieve Safety and Security in our community, we believe the City of Atlanta must implement initiatives that accomplish the following:

- A) Continue efforts to create safe and secure neighborhoods on the Westside
- B) Support strong code enforcement and blight elimination programs

II. MIXED-INCOME COMMUNITIES

The neighborhoods' rich history lives within its residents. To restore the strength of these historic neighborhoods, we must ensure that current residents are able to stay here for generations to come. This will be possible through quality mixed-income housing, which helps to support families, nurture community, stimulate local businesses and attract new residents.

We must also protect and preserve the rich history of the Westside neighborhoods as revitalization happens. This will require strategic and thoughtful decisions regarding redevelopment going forward.

To achieve a broad, Mixed-Income Community, we believe the City of Atlanta must implement initiatives that accomplish the following:

- A) Retain existing residents and businesses
- B) Support the increase of affordable and workforce housing in the Westside
- C) Support Westside Land Use Action Plan recommendations to guide future development and preservation of history
- D) Support equitable economic development and job creation opportunities for the Westside

III. CRADLE TO CAREER EDUCATION

To truly transform the Westside neighborhoods and ensure Atlanta remains competitive as a source of talent for years to come, we must prepare the next generation of Atlantans for a brighter future – that all starts with access to high-quality education as well as support for current residents through services such as skills assessments, training and job readiness preparation.

We must have high quality job opportunities and/or entrepreneurial avenues available to residents which will allow them to grow and enhance the future for them and their families.

To achieve an ecosystem of high quality Cradle to Career Education, we believe the City of Atlanta must implement initiatives that accomplish the following:

- A) Support high quality education efforts on the Westside (pre-school through high school)
- B) Champion programs that successfully prepare Westside residents for employment and growth opportunities
- C) Ensure quality job opportunities exist for Westside residents
- D) Support entrepreneurship education and access to capital for Westside residents and businesses
- E) Support the success of the HBCUs and other higher learning institutions in the Westside footprint

IV. COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The connection between a community's economic health and the health of its residents has been proven time and time again. By providing access to wellness facilities and quality parks and greenspace in Westside neighborhoods, residents can get – and stay – healthier.

There must also be improved access to healthy, affordable food choices to combat the impact of food deserts on the health and wellness of Westside residents.

To achieve improved Community Health and Wellness, we believe the City of Atlanta, must implement initiatives that accomplish the following:

- A) Create additional community gardens and greenspace on the Westside
- B) Completely address flooding issues in Westside communities by continuing to build out storm water mitigation infrastructure in Westside and Downtown Atlanta
- C) Support health education and programs to reduce the prevalence of HIV, diabetes, and other diseases with higher than normal prevalence on the Westside
- D) Provide mental health, substance abuse, and other supportive services to Westside residents
- E) Provide stronger multi-modal transportation connections to other parts of the City while also supporting more walkable and bike-friendly communities