THE PROCESS

Developing the Georgia STAND-UP Alliance Community Issues Platform

Step 1:   Understanding the Need

During the Georgia STAND -UP Listening Sessions held in 2008 Alliance members stated a need for more transparency and community input into the shaping of our city. The participants also stated that a strategy is necessary for issues to be heard and addressed among elected officials.

Step 2: Series of Community Engagement Brainstorming Sessions

To address the needs of the community, additional listening were held during four Georgia Stand-Up Alliance meetings in 2009 which allowed participants to SPEAK-UP and develop a Community Issues Platform for the 2009 City of Atlanta Mayoral and City Council elections. During those sessions, community leaders from around Atlanta and the region came together to determine key issues and brainstorm solutions for designing a Community Issues Platform that can create more accountability in elected office in the future.

The process to formulate the Community Issues Platform began with STAND-UP Alliance members stating the top issues along with proposed solutions that they see facing their community(s).

Two questions were asked during the sessions:

1. What are the key issues facing your community(s)?
2. What are your solutions to address the key issues?

Step 3:   Educate STAND-UP Alliance members on the connection between the issues and proposed solutions

The critical part of the process was to establish the connection between community issues and the roles that the Mayor and City Council have in relation to those issues. Once the connections were identified the group discussed policy solutions for the Mayor and City Council around those issues. All issues and proposed solutions stated during those sessions were recorded.

Step 4: Establish a Working Group

A working group comprised of volunteers from the STAND-UP Alliance was formed to compile and publish the recorded issues. The working group identified 7 key categories in which to group the proposed solutions and organized the solutions by topic areas. These topic areas are Good Jobs, Economic Development, Affordable Housing, Public Safety, Transit & Transportation, Vacant and Abandoned Housing, and Public Land.

Step 5: Prioritizing the Issues

STAND-UP Alliance members were given ballots to vote on the top 3 solutions in each category.

Step 6: Finalizing the Platform

The issues with proposed solutions after prioritization were formulated into a cohesive platform. The results were recorded and are published in this report.

Step 7: Implement A Plan of Action

STAND-UP Alliance members decided to publish the results, hold education sessions, and hold candidate forums to gain candidate commitment to the platform.