



### **CITY COUNCIL POST 3**

Re-Election Tuesday, November 4, 2025 City Hall 70 S. Clayton St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor 7 AM – 7 PM

# My Continued Vision for Lawrenceville, City of the Future, Diverse and Inclusive for All



www.voteforaustinthompson.com

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#### PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document, My Vision for Lawrenceville, hereinafter referred to as "Vision Plan 2025", captures my plans for Lawrenceville while serving on the City Council from 2026 - 2030. *Austin 2.0 is, hereby, ready to go*. This plan outlines my general re-election platform, thoughts, and strategies which I intend to pursue while serving the citizens of Lawrenceville, Georgia as City Councilman for Post 3 for another four years. This document also expounds on these ideas with explanation of how I wish to execute each goal. Also, Vision Plan 2025 provides some personal insight on me, the candidate.

#### **MY VISION FOR THE CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE**

As the seat of Gwinnett County, the second largest county in Georgia, I foresee the City of Lawrenceville as a thriving and bustling *city of the future*. By this, I mean Lawrenceville continues to grow as an example for other small-to-medium sized municipalities. Lawrenceville sits in a minority majority county, with citizens of diverse cultures, diverse ethnicities, diverse languages, diverse religions, diverse academic and professional backgrounds, and diverse philosophical thinking. The rich landscape of diversity is our true value proposition. Hence, the reason why we are the recipients of a DEI award from the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), recognizing our city for the work we do for all stakeholders in our city. The unique selling point we establish for the city is driven by collective input, ideas, and contributions made by all who have a genuine vested interest in Lawrenceville. We progress successfully because contributions to the growth and evolution of Lawrenceville are made by many people of varying perspectives and backgrounds, not by those who look and think the same, and adhere to the old status quo. The right investors (stakeholders), those who wish to grow a city reflective of its beautiful and rich diverse composition, will choose to do business with and in Lawrenceville, as they shall recognize the opportunity to positively impact on the lives of all residents, without partiality to any one particular and privileged group. This is extremely important and must be recognized and respected. Our city has a clear responsibility to continue growing and developing as a model for authentic diversity, inclusion, and fairness, while being accepting of all who wish to do business in, play in, shop in, and live in Lawrenceville, regardless of socioeconomic status, skin complexion, the language we speak, how we pray, and who we choose to love. This is OUR city, the people's city.

My vision for Lawrenceville is a city open to all who wish to embrace it as their own. This is how we move Lawrenceville forward and qualify it to be the city of the future. I am proud of the work I have done since 2021, and I plan to expand my sphere of influence in preparation to serve this great city for another four years with all stakeholders in mind. *Austin* **2.0** is ready to go!!

#### CAMPAIGN PLATFORM AND GOALS: 2026 - 2030

#### • Engagement (Continued Goal)

- Continue with Coffee with Councilman Thompson, 2 Saturdays of each month
- Specially planned events for constituents/stakeholders
- Continue to work with organizations such as Gwinnett Housing Authority, Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center, local non-profits, and others for community engagement.

#### • Economic Growth and Development (Continued Goal)

- o Increase visibility of Lawrenceville to new markets and opportunities
- Capturing traffic/attention from incoming flights to Briscoe Airport
- Work with city leaders to identify new access to funding opportunities for specially developed projects

#### • Entrepreneurship and Small Business Support (Continued Goal)

- Continued work to promote opportunities for entrepreneurs in our city, such as Doing Business in Lawrenceville during National Small Business Week
- Strengthen my advocacy for ALL small businesses in our city
- Continued business planning and development workshops with the Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center and Gwinnett Public Library
- Work with state lawmakers to identify access to capital for SME's, especially minority-owned businesses and those classified as disadvantaged
- Work with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Small Business Administration (SBA), Lawrenceville Business Alliance (LBA), and area chambers to support our local small business ecosystem

#### • Safety, Security, and Quality of Life (Continued Goal)

- Continue to work closely with our Police Chief to ensure ongoing security and protection for our businesses and residents
- Work with city leaders to ensure proper and safe infrastructure, lights, storm water systems, lights, and sanitation meets the expectations of our residents and businesses
- o Continued support to reduce blight and slum lord neglect in our city
- Livable Wage Job Creation Plan (Continued Goal)
  - With support from city leaders, encourage companies to relocate their operations to Lawrenceville (I.e. higher wage employment opportunities)
  - Present plans to establish a tech village/district in Lawrenceville

#### • Affordable Housing Plans (New Goal)

- Support my Council colleague advocating 10% affordability on each newly constructed housing development
- Support the Lawrenceville/Gwinnett Housing Authority on the development of new affordable housing development projects
- Work on plans for a tiny/micro home community in our city
- o Support for additional affordable 55+ and mixed income housing consideration

#### • Equal and Fair Access for All (New Goal)

 With DEI rollbacks and terminating segregation policy (on the federal level), ensure fair and equal employment for all candidates, fair and equal treatment for all current employees, fair and equal access to contractors, fair and equal treatment of our veterans, fair and equal treatment to all classified disadvantaged/minority groups and everything across the board in our city

#### • Youth Summit and Development (New Goal – Middle and High School)

 Plan to work with several schools within the city limits on youth summits and other development initiatives, capitalizing on what I started with National Engineer's Week and with the Business Academy at Discovery High School, and with Mr. Rod Hames' business mentoring class at Crews Middle School. This will include building a closer relationship with Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) students for this and other initiatives

As a substitute teacher in the Gwinnett County Public School system, I see where various programs could help support our young scholars and amazing teachers.

#### **Ancillary Plans:**

• Establish a Quarterly Constituent Roundtable of community representatives/leaders to discuss opportunities in our neighborhoods. The roundtable will consist of one representative from each community area.

#### Objective:

Bring leaders together to foster unity, a sense of community, and best practices. This is an idea from my time served on the Lawrenceville Neighborhood Alliance (LNA).

• Quarterly ride-a-long with Code Enforcement

#### <u>Objective</u>:

Observe routes and opportunities for enhancements in our neighborhoods.

• Continued Advocacy for expanded micro transit services

#### Objective:

To ensure better connectivity between Lawrenceville, Lilburn, Snellville, and other new service areas. This will enhance transportation needs for riders to connect with job opportunities, shopping, and travel to other areas of Gwinnett and beyond. Also, increased shuttle service during peak times of the day.

• Support for quality of life for local military Veterans

#### Objective:

Ongoing information sessions and workshops to support our local veterans. Information will include but will not be limited to access to veterans' benefits and medical services, support for affordable housing, and for those who are homeless.

#### **MY WHY**

I wish to continue serving our residents and businesses and being a representative in whom you all trust, have faith, can openly engage, and know you will have a seat at the table of discussion and decision-making. My representation is to all in Lawrenceville. Let's work together and grow this city in which we can all be proud. My desire is to continue serving you.

#### **My Value Proposition:**

I am an advocate, first, with a high emotional intelligence to listen, understand your pain points, and use feedback to solve problems. For me, building a genuine relationship with you is a priority.

#### **Engagement Philosophy**

Continuous engagement of people I serve is one of my fundamental beliefs as a community leader for relationship building. Engage, listen, offer conversation, mutually determine a solution, and be a representative to solve problems. I am about service to people who oftentimes feel marginalized and underserved. I focus on those who feel invisible and believe no one listens to them. For over 30 years, this has been my fundamental philosophy, a builder of natural relationships. Now, as an elected official in the City of Lawrenceville, I am able to vote on ordinances and set policies representing the interests of my constituents. *You are not invisible to me*. I am committed to those who have faith in me to be their representative, and with their trust, speak on their behalf at the seat of decision-making. This, I take very seriously. I am a representative of **ALL** 35,000 residents in our city and I will continue to carry each of you with me as I sit with my fellow elected municipal leaders to set policy for Lawrenceville.

#### **PROFILE – ABOUT ME**

#### **RESIDENCE IN LAWRENCEVILLE, GA**

12 years - New Hope Subdivision

#### SERVICE TO THE CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE - NON-COUNCIL

*Downtown Architectural Review Board (DARB)* – Appointed directly by The Honorable Mayor Judy Jordan-Johnson in December 2014.

*"Move Lawrenceville Forward" Steering Committee, City of Lawrenceville* – Appointed directly by The Honorable Mayor Judy Jordan-Johnson for development and approval of the Lawrenceville 2040 Plan.

*The Lawrenceville Neighborhood Alliance (LNA)* – Appointed directly by Gerold Martin, Chair, to the Executive Board for working on plans to enhance the quality of Lawrenceville.

#### SERVICE TO GWINNETT COUNTY AND THE 7<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2012 DNC Elected Delegate – Elected by voters in Georgia's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

*Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners Development Advisory Committee* – Appointed directly by District 4 Commissioner, the Honorable Commissioner, Marlene Fosque

Storm Water Committee Board (Current) - Appointed in my first year on the Council

#### **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Assisting the team of U.S. Congresswoman, Rep. Carolyn Bourdeaux (GA 7), to identify and distribute information to small businesses within the district who were adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and required support.

#### **CAMPAIGN SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE**

Austin Thompson for Lawrenceville City Council – <u>www.voteforaustinthompson.com</u> Facebook – facebook.com/austinthompsonforlawrenceville Twitter – twitter.com/voteforaustinthompson IG: voteforaustinthompson

#### PERSONAL CHARACTER TRAITS

- 1. Driven/Ambitious (Always learning, always developing)
- 2. Forward and Out-the-Box Thinking
- 3. Good Humored
- 4. Compassionate/Empathetic
- 5. Committed/Loyal
- 6. Approachable/Accessible

#### **PROFESSIONAL CAREER**

- Electronic Engineer (EMI/EMC Regulatory Compliance) 17 years
- Senior Business Development 6.5 years
- Project Management and Coordination 25 years
- Adjunct Professor of Business and Project Management (Shorter University) 8 years
- Small Business Consulting & advocacy 18 years
- GCPS Substitute Teacher 8 months

#### BIOGRAPHY

I immigrated to the United States of America from the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, South America in 1977, the continent's only English-speaking country located on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean bordered by Venezuela to the west, Brazil to the west and south, and Suriname to the East. I spent my formative years in the inner cities of East New York, Flatbush, and Crown Heights, Brooklyn, NY, and grew up in the low-income public housing apartments of Louis H. Pink Houses. My dad worked at the Bank of New York while completing his Marketing degree at Bernard M. Baruch College. My mom worked nights at the same bank. We did not have much in material possession, but we came to the United States determined to succeed. I attended the Academy for the Performing Arts at Erasmus Hall High School, where I majored in Theatre, and was active in championship football and track. I later attended Medgar Evers College pursuing a degree in Political Science and Economics. While attending college, I worked on Wall Street for Chase Manhattan Bank and later, Stone and Webster Engineering, acquiring administrative experiences that would serve me well later in life. In 1992, I relocated to Lithonia Georgia and established a Desktop Publishing and Typesetting business and also worked several contract assignments to supplement my entrepreneurial endeavors.

I am a graduate of DeVry University (formerly DeVry Institute of Technology) with undergraduate degrees in Electronic Engineering and Telecommunications Management. I received my MBA and Master of Project Management with distinction from Keller Graduate School of Management in 2005. I worked for 17 years as a Regulatory Compliance EMC/EMI

#### MY VISION FOR LAWRENCEVILLE (2026 - 2030) - Austin 2.0

Electronic and Project Engineer, and the past 6.5 years in business development, project management, and client relations. In 2007, I established Thompson Management Consulting, LLC to assist entrepreneurs and small business owners develop business plans, and the business has grown into a comprehensive management consulting operation. I also work in advocacy for businesses designated as disadvantaged entities. From 2012 - 2019, I planned and executed an annual Entrepreneurship and Small Business Summit (ESBS) which invited top consultants from around the Metro Atlanta area to participate as workshop facilitators, panelists, and keynote speakers. The event, held during National Small Business Week, attracted anywhere from 100-150 attendees each year. In addition, I taught business courses as an Adjunct Professor at Shorter University, in the College of Adult and Professional Programs.

My current community involvement includes mentoring, youth symposium planning, and past executive duties for the Guyana Association of Georgia (GAOG). I am currently an Advisory Board member for the Clyde L. Strickland Center for Entrepreneurship at Discovery High School where I judge shark tank competitions and mentor students on developing businesses, as well as an occasional mentor for the business program lead by Rod Hames at Crews Middle School. I am an author, publishing *A Brand New You: Taking Ownership of Your Personal Brand* in 2010. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, listening to music, traveling, and conducting random business and economic research.

#### HIGHLIGHT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2022 – 2026)

#### Individual:

- 1. Coffee With Councilman Thompson Since 2021, twice a month
- 2. Advocated for local shuttle service in the city limits of Lawrenceville and now have Ride Gwinnett Micro
- 3. Proposed and got passed a budget line item to provide subsidized funding to support relocation plans for city employees
- 4. Attend ceremonial ribbon cuttings for new businesses
- 5. Meet regularly with staff to discuss general city business
- 6. Attend Georgia Municipal Association, National League of Cities, and Cities United training classes at annual conferences
- 7. Attend events hosted by the city and various businesses
- 8. Meet personally with residents to discuss various concerns such as sanitation, storm water drain, and other matters
- 9. Meet with business owners to discuss various concerns
- 10. Alcohol ordinance adjustment to allow After Taste Barbecue restaurant to apply for their alcohol license

- 11. Worked with Edged Events to get their special use permit and alcohol license. Saved them from closing.
- 12. Co-organize and moderate an annual Doing Business with Lawrenceville panel
- 13. Sandalwood community, new \$10M project
- 14. Visit with the city's Hispanic businesses 2-3 times per year
- 15. Pop-in visits with business owners in the city
- 16. Proposed reviews and consideration for a tiny home community
- 17. Voted down tax increases on residents and businesses
- 18. Voted down electric fee increase
- 19. Voted down utility bill fee
- 20. Scheduled and attended meetings with Briscoe Airport and city officials to discuss revenue growth for businesses in the city
- 21. Met with the City Attorney and Asst. City Attorney to discuss a rental rate increase cap for residents
- Argued against housing development proposals with NO affordable housing options. The city now considers a recommendation of 5% for all new developments. No ordinance as yet.
- 23. Work personally with Code Enforcement on community concerns
- 24. Work directly with the Lawrenceville Police Department, Chief John Mullin, and Captain Salvadore Ortega on ideas for continued community engagement and relations
- 25. Held a successful community health fair, in collaboration with New Jerusalem Baptist Church. More similar events will be planned
- 26. Facilitated a presentation on Veterans concerns, with plans to grow support for local area veterans. Ongoing workshops will be considered
- 27. Host a successful Business and Brew Network event for entrepreneurs twice annually

#### Voting with Council (In General):

- 1. Attend all City Council meetings, work sessions, and special call meetings
- 2. Attend all city business retreats
- 3. Vote on critical city ordinances, rezonings, special use permits, and other business matters
- 4. Voted on an ordinance to fine slum lords who are out of compliance with city codes
- 5. Vote annually on the city's budget, now at \$184M
- 6. I interviewed and contributed to the hiring of the city's new Police Chief
- 7. Vote on new residential and business developments

#### MY VISION FOR LAWRENCEVILLE (2026 – 2030) – Austin 2.0

- 8. Review and discuss all city invoices and proposals for services and capital expenditure
- 9. Voted on the new hotel project Opening Summer 2026
- 10. Attend tours with Council and city leaders of various cities outside Georgia.
- 11. Vote on Infrastructure projects (sidewalks, widening of streets, park enhancements, ground cable replacements, etc.)
- 12. Attend townhall meetings hosted by Honorable Gabe Okoye
- 13. <u>Recognized as a City of Civility</u> Embracing respect and kindness
- 14. <u>Earned an Award For DEI</u> Nationally recognized for our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

#### **Going Strong Since 2021**

## Coffee with Councilman Thompson



As one of your Lawrenceville City Council representatives, I invite you to come and meet personally with me for coffee and conversation. Have a cup of coffee (on me) while discussing your concerns, issues, and how we wish to see Lawrenceville grow for all our valued citizens. Thank you very much! Host: Austin Thompson Date: First and Third Saturday of each month

Time: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Location: Euro Gourmet Foods Café, 488 Gwinnett Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 (Corner of Scenic Highway - Hwy 124)

To RSVP: (404) 587-3949 or austin.thompson@lawrencevillega.org





#### CONCLUSION

On Tuesday, November 4, 2025, the citizens of Lawrenceville will go to the polls to cast their votes for my re-election to represent them on the City Council. I am running to represent all 35,000 residents of Lawrenceville. My sole purpose is to ensure that the City of Lawrenceville becomes a city of the future with continued recognition of diversity and inclusion as part of its practice and service to the citizenry of our beautiful and historic city. We were presented with a DEI award from the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) in 2023, recognized for our commitment to DEI principles and recognized as a City of Civility by the National League of Cities. Both, under my first term, I wish for us to continue exemplifying these qualities, which solidifies Lawrenceville as a city in which everyone wants to work, play, and live, not just pass through.

Also, with our new Hilton Tapestry hotel due for opening in Summer 2026, our active schedule of events in the city, the programs produced by the Aurora Theater, plethora of diverse and quality restaurants, schools, houses of worship, proximity to a busy airport, outstanding police department and city employees, Lawrenceville shall continue to be a place where you wish to establish your business and/or residency. As a Council Member, I will be working hard with our city leadership to ensure your expectations are met and exceeded.

It is with tremendous humility that I ask for your support. I can have a successful campaign, but it will not be a success without your support. Here are the many ways you can support our campaign.

- 1. Vote for Austin E. Thompson, Jr., Lawrenceville City Council Post 3. I will work for all of you. If you do not live in Lawrenceville, and you have family and/or friends in the City of Lawrenceville, please encourage them to vote for Austin E. Thompson, Jr.
- I greatly appreciate your donations, no matter what the dollar value, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, or more. It all adds up and it shall make a positive impact on how we are able to spend on necessary campaign resources to deliver a win on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.
- 3. If you have time to volunteer, whether it is a half hour, one hour, two hours, half day, I will greatly appreciate your time. Volunteer to knock on doors, to make phone calls, write out post cards, donate stamps for postage, or sign waving. Please let us know how you wish to assist.
- 4. You can volunteer to host a meet-and-greet in your community. Gather residents at at your home or community center for a personal conversation.

5. Finally, please leave your comments and let me know where you see Lawrenceville in the next 5-10 years. Let me know your personal vision for the city in which you live and are raising your family. Let us set up time to speak, whether on the phone or in person.

On Tuesday, November 4, 2025, please cast your vote to re-elect Austin E. Thompson, Jr., "The People's Councilor", Lawrenceville City Council – Post 3. Together, we will continue to make the City of Lawrenceville a place in which we work, live, play, and do business. Together, we can place our city in the hands of those who really matter to its future, and that is you. *Change begins with you.* Let us move Lawrenceville forward, and into the future together. Please accept my gratitude for your continued support. *Austin 2.0 is ready to go!!* 

#### Campaign Video Interview and Message Links Below:

<u>CLICK HERE</u> to visit the campaign website. Thank you. <u>CLICK HERE</u> to view a brief video of my *personal ASK*. Thank you. <u>CLICK HERE</u> to view the full official campaign interview video. Thank you.

Scan to	donate:
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#### VOTING DATE, TIME, AND POLLING LOCATION:

Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025
Time: 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Location: City Hall – 70 S. Clayton Street, Lawrenceville GA 30046, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor (Council chamber)

**<u>CLICK HERE</u>** for city election information, voting, and all related updates.

For all City of Lawrenceville General Information: www.lawrencevillega.org

#### **Contact Me:**

Phone: (404) 587-3949 Email: <u>austinthompsonjr@gmail.com</u> (personal) Email: <u>Austin.thompson@lawrencevillega.org</u> (council) **Note:** If you do not hear from me within 48 hours, kindly send a text. Thank you.

Note: There is no primary for municipal elections

#### **RANDOM CAPTURED MOMENTS – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**





















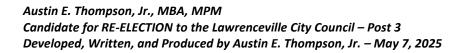












#### MY VISION FOR LAWRENCEVILLE (2026 - 2030) - Austin 2.0































#### MY VISION FOR LAWRENCEVILLE (2026 - 2030) - Austin 2.0



















Austin E. Thompson, Jr., MBA, MPM Candidate for RE-ELECTION to the Lawrenceville City Council – Post 3 Developed, Written, and Produced by Austin E. Thompson, Jr. – May 7, 2025