

Announcement



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Long-time community leader, non-profit executive enters commission race

Joan Garner is seeking Fulton County Commission District 6 seat

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Joan Garner, a long-time community leader and non-profit executive, has announced she is seeking the Fulton County District 6 seat. The seat is currently held by Nancy Boxill, who after 23 years on the Commission has announced her decision not to seek a sixth term.

A Washington, DC, native, Garner has been in Atlanta since 1978, making her home in various neighborhoods across the district. She now resides in the historic Old Fourth Ward neighborhood with her partner of 11 years. Fulton County District 6 encompasses portions of the northeastern, central and southeastern sections of Atlanta, from as far south as the city/Fulton County line to Lindridge-Martin Manor on the northern edge of the district. East to West, the district runs approximately from Moreland Avenue to Joseph E. Lowery Blvd.

“Seeking public office is a natural progression for me,” Garner says. “From growing up during the dawn of the civil rights era, to a 20-year career in non-profits and as an active champion of social justice issues, I’ve always seen my vocation and my community service as one. There is essentially no difference for me. Serving my neighbors of District 6 as a Fulton County Commissioner would allow me to even better support the communities in which I so strongly believe.”

“One of the reasons I entered this race is to ensure that this diverse community continues to prosper,” Garner says, “and that it does so with the active participation of people from all walks of life across District 6 and beyond.”

“I want to serve as a good fiscal steward for the people of Fulton County, including helping our governments and municipalities live within their means, while still providing crucial services, and doing so efficiently and effectively,” Garner says. “For instance, we must be vigilant about public safety, from reducing opportunities for crime to code enforcement issues.”

Garner says she is known for leading by example and that she has proven her muster tackling complex business and community issues by, among other things, being able to effectively identify the most appropriate resources and bring those together through a bridge-building approach.

A graduate of the University of District Columbia (bachelor’s in English) and Howard University (master’s in organizational communication), Garner has long been known both for her work in the non-profit sector and for her community leadership. Also an entrepreneur, she founded Garner Results, Inc., a consultancy that develops giving strategies and provides management support to the non-profit and philanthropic communities.

Garner was previously president and CEO of the Historic District Development Corporation, a community-based, nonprofit organization that facilitates the preservation and revitalization of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic District and other historic/preservation communities. She also served as executive director of the Southern Partners Fund, a community-based public foundation committed to equal rights; as co-director of the National Network of Grantmakers, which supports social

justice work; and as executive director of the Fund for Southern Communities, which fosters social change in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Her resourcefulness, innovative problem solving, and progressive thinking on community-focused topics has garnered her opportunities and awards. As recently as last year she served as chair of City of Atlanta Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) M and as long ago as 1989 served on the transition team for Mayor-elect Maynard Jackson. Jackson later appointed Garner a senior advisor. She advised Mayor Kasim Reed's transition efforts. Her lengthy community service resume also includes serving on the boards of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library Foundation, the Atlanta-Fulton County Library, the Metro Atlanta United Way, the Historic District Development Corporation, the Fulton County Arts Council, the Metropolitan Atlanta Community Development Corporation, the Atlanta Beltline Housing Advisory Board, and Caring Works, Inc.

She is a graduate of Leadership Atlanta (1997) and the Gill Foundation Leadership Program (2000), and received the Human Rights Campaign Fund's Community Leadership Award in 1992. The YWCA of Metro Atlanta inducted her in 2003 to its Academy of Women Achievers; the National Trust for Historic Preservation followed suit in 2007 through its Diversity Scholarship Program. In 2008, Garner completed Georgia Stand Up's Policy Institute for Civic Leadership.

In her rare spare time, Garner enjoys yoga, recreational outings across the city with her standard poodle and recently took up knitting with gusto.

"I am proud to be working to make Joan the next Fulton County Commissioner for District 6," says Kenneth M. Neighbors, a partner with GreenbergTraurig, the international law firm, who is serving as campaign chair for Garner's county commission bid. "I know Joan as a respected, effective leader, both in the community and in business, and I look forward to her bringing those formidable skills to bear in this next phase of her journey."

Neighbors adds that, "Joan has the commitment, compassion and intellect to help guide Fulton County through these very difficult economic times, while staying focused on the essential services which the must continue to provide to its citizens."

OTHER INFORMATION:

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