



Kasim Reed is the 59th Mayor of the City of Atlanta. He was elected to a second term on November 5, 2013 and took the oath of office on January 6, 2014. Elected with a clear mandate for fiscal reform, Mayor Reed has increased core city services and reduced the City's spending during the worst recession in 80 years.

Since taking office, he has hired more than 900 police officers and created the largest police force in the city's history, re-opened all of the city's recreation centers as safe havens for young people and improved fire-rescue response times. Working with the Atlanta City Council and the city's employee unions, he successfully initiated a series of sweeping reforms to address the city's \$1.5 billion unfunded pension liability. Mayor Reed began his term facing a \$48 million budget shortfall; under his leadership, the city has had six years of balanced budgets with no property tax increases, and its cash reserves have grown from \$7.4 million to more than \$180 million.

Mayor Reed has received numerous accolades since taking office. In 2013, he was ranked among the top ten most influential African-Americans in the nation by *The Root*, a publication of the Washington Post Company. He received the Distinguished Leadership Award from the National Forum for Black Public Administrators. The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington D.C. honored him with the Louis E. Martin Great American Award, saying he "heralds a new and creative approach to leadership." In 2011, *Governing Magazine* named Mayor Reed as one of the top state and local government officials of the year. Thomas Friedman, the Pulitzer-Prize winning New York Times columnist and author of *"That Used to Be Us,"* called Reed "inspiring" and labeled him as "one of the best of this new breed of leaders." In his book *"We Can All Do Better,"* former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley cited Reed's straightforward approach in successfully reforming the city's pension plan and wrote: "We need more of that kind of candor."

Mayor Reed's civic leadership and service have been nationally recognized on programs such as Meet the Press and on news outlets such as MSNBC, CNN, FOX and CNBC, and in publications including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and *Delta Sky Magazine*. Mayor Reed has been a guest speaker at numerous national and international conferences, including the Aspen Ideas Festival, Chicago Ideas Week, New York Ideas, New Cities Summit, Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) America, the Gathering of Leaders and recently delivered his first TED talk at TEDCity2.0.

As a champion for Atlanta and the State of Georgia, Mayor Reed serves on a number of advisory committees. He is Chairman of the Transportation and Communications Committee of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Chairman of the Regional Transit Committee of the Atlanta Regional Commission. In November 2013, he joined Vice President Joe Biden to tour the Panama Canal and advocate for the deepening of the Port of Savannah; Georgia's largest economic development project to date. He is a member of the Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowship Class of 2007, Leadership Georgia Class of 2000 and Leadership Atlanta Class of 1998.

Prior to his election, Mayor Reed established a track record of leadership during his 11 years as a member of the Georgia General Assembly. He was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1998 and served two terms. From 2002 to 2009, he served in the Georgia State Senate, where he was Vice Chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus. He is a former partner of Holland and Knight LLP, an international law firm.

Mayor Reed is a graduate of Howard University in Washington D.C., where he received his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees and an honorary Doctor of Laws. As an undergraduate member of Howard University's Board of Trustees, he created a fundraising program that has contributed more than \$10

million to the school's endowment since its inception. Mayor Reed was appointed as Howard University's youngest General Trustee in June 2002 and remains a dedicated member of the Board of Trustees.

Mayor Reed enjoys attending sports events and reading. Some favorite books include *Master of the Senate* by Robert Caro and *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass. He likes playing golf with his father, Junius Reed, and calls his mother, Sylvia Reed, his "best friend." He also enjoys spending time with his three older brothers: Chuck, Carlton and Tracy.

The mayor lives in the Cascade community of Southwest Atlanta with his wife, Sarah-Elizabeth, and their daughter, Maria Kristan. He is a member of Cascade United Methodist Church.