

## **Bio for Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed**

Mayor Kasim Reed was raised in Atlanta's Cascade community. He was educated in Fulton County's public schools where he graduated from Utoy Springs Elementary School and Westwood High School (now Westlake High School). From there, he went on to Howard University, where he received his undergraduate and law degrees.

Kasim was first elected to the Georgia General Assembly in 1998 as State Representative for District 52. He was re-elected in 2000, winning seventy-seven percent (77%) of all votes cast. In the House, he served two terms as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, Education Committee and Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Committee.

Kasim continued his successful leadership as the State Senator for District 35. He was elected in August 2002, winning 66% percent of all votes cast. He served on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Special Judiciary Committee, Urban Affairs Committee, Higher Education Committee, Ethics Committee, Transportation Committee, and the State and Local Government Operations Committee. He also served as the Vice Chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus.

Mayor Reed was a partner at Holland and Knight LLP, an international law firm with offices in Atlanta. In addition to his professional pursuits, Kasim has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to better his community at every stage in his life. As an undergraduate member of Howard University's Board of Trustees, he created a fundraising program entitled the "Independence Initiative", which The New York Times reported helped higher education "stand up to adversity". Since its inception, this initiative has contributed more than \$10 million to Howard University's endowment. In June 2002, he was appointed as Howard University's youngest General Trustee.

Reed served as campaign manager for Mayor Shirley Franklin's first and second campaigns. Following her election in November 2001, Mayor Franklin selected him to serve as one of two Co-Chairs for the Shirley Franklin Transition Team.

Mayor Reed's civic leadership and service have been nationally recognized in publications such as The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Washington Post, The New York Times, Ebony and Black Enterprise. He was selected as one of Georgia Trend magazine's "40 under 40 Rising Stars" in 2001, as one of the Fulton County Daily Report's "Lawyers on the Rise" and as one of "10 Outstanding Atlantans" in Outstanding Atlanta. Kasim is a member of the Leadership Georgia Class of 2000 and is a Board Member of the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund.

Kasim Reed is a member of Cascade United Methodist Church, pastored by Reverend Marvin Moss.

The citizens of Atlanta elected Kasim Reed to be the City's 59th Mayor on December 1, 2009.