

Platform Points

Reconnecting the Tallahassee Dream

Empowerment and Support of Veterans, Older residents, and People with Disabilities

I plan on the continuation and implementation of better programs and services for veterans, older residents, and people with disabilities creating more ways for inclusion, programming, and accessibility throughout Tallahassee.

Poverty

I have often questioned, ‘How can a city that is the capital of the State of Florida, have so many poverty-stricken areas?’ It is a question that I will continue to ask myself until an answer and sustainable solution is established. Many people of Tallahassee cannot pay their bills, even though they are working at times two to three jobs to support their families. I will commit to challenging our city government to create more ways to address poverty and prevent more families from the feeling of struggling alone.

Opportunities for Women

I was raised to believe that our daughters should have as many opportunities as our sons, and with that as the foundation of my belief system, I will lead, with my concerns for women’s equality and equity as one of my top priorities. The women of Tallahassee will know how valued, appreciated, respected, and needed they are in the development and sustaining of the future of Tallahassee.

Optimal Education for Every Child

Tallahassee must remain committed to decreasing disparities in education, committing to addressing the issue of low scores in math and science and the ever-growing concern with school dropout rates. I am steadfast in my commitment to addressing the achievement gaps of Leon County students that are evident between minority and white students. I am committing to making sure that Leon County schools remain quality institutions for learning and advancement that our teachers feel supported, and parents remain at ease during times that may be uneasy. From our early childhood challenges to K-12 concerns, I aim to be a City Commissioner who remains connected, committed, and compassionate for all youth in Tallahassee.

Higher Education

The universities, colleges, and other institutions of higher learning within Tallahassee, have done a remarkable job at providing top-tier education for the students that have chosen to make Tallahassee their home while pursuing higher education. I intend to continue to champion and support as well as seek out ways to work with higher learning institutions to create a more connected environment and experience between the City of Tallahassee and its students.

Science, Technology and Innovation

I plan to increase the presence of science, technology, and innovation in the Capitol City of Florida through the support of research and development, STEM initiatives, and strategic methods to be more inclusive of youth engagement opportunities on a city-wide basis. I endeavor to aid in the development of a new vision for Tallahassee that allows for the emergence of creativity and innovation to inspire youth and alternative options for more science and technological innovations for easier access for utilization of resources for the residents of Tallahassee.

Small Business Support and Entrepreneurship

I commit to the encouragement of new industries and new employment opportunities. I will support the continued help of small businesses facing high costs and aid in the eradication of barriers associated with small and start-up businesses in Tallahassee. I will work to aid with the recognition of small businesses to women, and people of color and help to nurture entrepreneurship programs for our youth within Tallahassee.

Real Leadership for Rural Tallahassee areas

I will endeavor to aid in the support of creating a strong safety net for the more rural areas of Tallahassee. Whether through the support of the expansion of agricultural research, community gardens, or the identification of additional transportation that may need to be evaluated to ensure that residents in areas less urbanized receive the same access as everyone else. I believe that all areas, both urban and rural, hold a shared interest in the preservation and increase of the economic vitality for the growth of Tallahassee.

Economic Stewardship

I believe that the state of the economy of Tallahassee was just as concerning back in 1821 the year that Tallahassee was founded as a city, as it is in 2023, nearly 200 years later. Tallahassee has struggled to balance the same forces that confront any city across America. The residents of Tallahassee have pursued their dreams, despite economic woes throughout the history of this wonderful, American city and I believe that it is time to honor, acknowledge, and value that resilience in all of us, more than ever before. I believe and I will commit to providing economic transparency, and fiscal responsibility while providing avenues for the restoration of fairness. I believe in bringing back balance to the housing market here in Tallahassee so that our economy in Tallahassee can become reconnected and stronger, ensuring a better future for our beloved residents.

Housing

I will work to ensure that foreclosure and homelessness prevention programs in Tallahassee are adequately and effectively managed and funded. I will focus on aiding with improving policy that helps to strengthen relationships between lenders and borrowers, homeowners, and tenants. I believe in the importance of financial literacy and endeavor to work on establishing city-wide

Affordable Housing options and alternatives. I am committed to addressing housing discrimination practices in Tallahassee, identifying ways to continue to combat homelessness among veterans and creating more preventive services for all who need a home.

Reforming Financial Regulation and Corporate Governance

I will commit to not failing the people of Tallahassee and guard against practices that are financially manipulative. I will focus on being productive and ensuring sound practices. I will commit to identifying and avoiding when special interests attempt to place “weight” on economic scales within city government. I do not believe that city government should impede innovation and development, I just believe that government has a role to play in common prosperity and aid in the provision of economic sustainable growth opportunities for all residents of Tallahassee.

Reconnecting the Tallahassee Community

Preventing and Responding to Future Catastrophes

I will also work to prevent future issues that are catastrophic whether emergencies are due to tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, or electrical outages. I will work steadfastly to support, improve, and ensure that we have proper staffing during emergency issues that impact the city, as well as creative, updated strategic plans for emergency management to prioritize the safety of our residents.

Stewardship of our Natural Resources

Tallahassee must be forward-thinking as it relates to preparing how our city will address and prepare for climate change that is occurring globally. I will support Tallahassee-based research efforts to improve regional promotion of reduced carbon emissions by the amounts scientists say are necessary to avoid catastrophic change. Additionally, I will commit to addressing potential water shortages, and lead issues before they occur and informing the residents of Tallahassee of ways to address and prevent issues with our natural resources.

Rural and Urban Development

I support equitable development strategies that create opportunities for those traditionally left behind by economic development efforts. It is with this belief and vision that I am to aid in Tallahassee becoming more vibrant and diverse as a city within the Big Bend region of Florida. It is time for our urban areas to not be overlooked, and we must aim to strengthen and reconnect our commitment to development with the consideration of those who may have valid concerns. I am in full support of community-based initiatives such as micro-loans, business assistance centers, community economic development organizations and corporations, and community development financial institutions. I will champion efforts to help small and corporate business development, to aid in the increased access to capital for businesses in underserved areas within Tallahassee.

The Arts

Investment in the Arts of Tallahassee is an investment in the creativity and cultural heritage of all our residents. I believe that cultural heritage and diversity should be expressed, celebrated, valued, and supported. I support art in schools and increased public awareness and funding for our community. I will aid in the promotion of Tallahassee becoming a city rich in culture and diversity.

Investment in Children and Families

If Tallahassee is to be reconnected, we must advance, improve, and sustain our efforts of investing in the children of Tallahassee. I believe in the importance of setting examples of excellence for children as a city for children to follow. However, the support of children but not their parents will never be sustainably effective. I plan on establishing ways for schools to offer job and recruitment fairs to parents who may be jobless, as well as parent resources for housing, mental health programs, food, and nutrition options, and more so that we are a city that believes in building families and supporting organizations that are already doing the work.

Seniors

I will take steps to ensure that the seniors of Tallahassee have the meaningful care options they need and that they feel supported as well as heard. I believe in the importance of the support of the caregivers, and the protection of the discrimination of those who choose to work past the age of 65.

Criminal Justice, Gun Violence, and Increase in Crime

I will be committed to being smart on crime. That means that Tallahassee must be tough on violent crimes, and support strategic and effective community policing and our pursuit of identifying the root causes of crimes. I believe that we must invest in successful crime prevention and rebrand our image on how we as a city view our crime epidemic. I will support and establish proven initiatives that get youth and nonviolent offenders back on track. I will work on identifying communities that experience crime every day and ways to make the residents safer. I want to ensure that our police officers are properly supported and funded as well as the programs that help youth make better choices have the financial support and provision they need.

Embracing Diversity

I believe in the essential ideal that we are not constrained by the circumstances of birth but can make our lives what we will. However, we see here in Tallahassee, as well as nationally, that is not always true for all. I believe that we need to continue to fight to end discrimination-driven disparities here in Tallahassee. I will champion efforts to end all discrimination based on race, sex, ethnicity, national origin, language, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, and disability in every corner of our beloved city.

Reconnecting Tallahassee Leadership

Open, Accountable and Ethical Government

I will work towards ways to increase democracy for the residents of Tallahassee. Using technology to make Tallahassee Government more accountable, transparent, and inclusive. I want to review and modify meeting times for City government that are held during hours where many of the men and women of Tallahassee are working trying to provide for their families. I want to establish ways for meetings that impact the people, to be accessed by the people. I want the people of Tallahassee to be easily notified about meetings that impact their finances, families, and futures. Additionally, the Assessment and Evaluation of elected officials while in office will aid the city in allowing for elected officials to receive feedback on their promises and review ways in which they can change to improve the City of Tallahassee.

Voting Rights and Access

The residents of Tallahassee must know the value of their Voting Rights. Voting Rights are fundamental rights because they are protective of all other rights. I will work to fully protect and enforce the fundamental Constitutional right of every vote here in Tallahassee. One of the greatest challenges we face here in Tallahassee is the demographic of citizens who experience voter apathy due to not believing that their vote counts. I will work to address the voter stagnation that the city overall has historically demonstrated, by establishing the belief that Tallahassee is a city that VOTES.

Partnerships with Neighboring Cities

Given the economic crises across Tallahassee, our residents face major challenges and difficulties. Our neighboring Big Bend cities, such as Wakulla, Gadsden, and others have also faced millions of dollars of shortfalls. Many residents from other cities commute to Tallahassee. They need to know they are heard and supported and partnerships to aid in viable transportation or opportunities to collaborate on solutions so that those who work in Tallahassee and live in neighboring cities, can feel valued and appreciated.

Partnerships with Civic Institutions

Tallahassee social entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations are aiding our Leon County Schools, helping to lift families out of poverty, filling mental health care gaps, and motivating others to lead change. My goal is to find more ways to help support these results-oriented innovators and invest in ideas that work, assess their impact, and expand the most successful programs.