

PLATFORM
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ORLANDO W.
PADEN
FOR MAYOR
CITY OF CLARKSDALE

CITY HALL

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REPRESENTATIVE ORLANDO W. PADEN'S ECONOMIC PLAN FOR THE CITY OF CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI

Strengthening Tourism through Cultural Heritage

Clarksdale's blues culture is already a strong draw, but there's an opportunity to expand tourism by tapping into the city's civil rights movement's history, gospel music history, and agricultural history which remain underexploited. The Paden Administration will revitalize Clarksdale's economy by leveraging Clarksdale's rich cultural heritage while addressing the challenges of limited funds, declining population, and underutilized assets.

Our 10 Actionable Goals for Economic Revitalization in Clarksdale

- 1. The Paden Administration will develop the Civil Rights Heritage Trail**
Partner with local historians and organizations to create a Civil Rights Heritage Trail, offering guided tours (both in-person and virtual) to attract educational tourists.
- 2. The Paden Administration will expand Civil Rights & Blues Festivals**
Enhance existing festivals (Sunflower River Blues & Gospel, Juke Joint, Red's Old Timers Blues Festival) with new programming that highlights the intersection of blues and civil rights, featuring performances, historical reenactments, and panel discussions.
- 3. The Paden Administration will increase support for Cultural Centers and Museums**
Provide additional funding and resources to the Delta Blues Museum and other cultural centers, fostering partnerships with local businesses to create themed tours around blues and civil rights.
- 4. The Paden Administration will create a Small Business Incubator**
Partner with local universities, community colleges, and non-profits to create a small business incubator focused on tourism, arts, and culture, providing affordable office space and mentorship for new ventures.
- 5. The Paden Administration will incentivize Cultural Businesses**
Offer tax breaks, low-interest loans, or rent subsidies for businesses that contribute to Clarksdale's tourism ecosystem, such as blues clubs, art galleries, and southern-themed restaurants.
- 6. The Paden Administration will invest in Workforce Development**
Establish training programs for local residents in hospitality, event management, tour guiding, and arts-related careers, in partnership with local workforce development organizations.

7. The Paden Administration will prioritize Infrastructure Improvements

Focus on beautifying key areas like downtown and tourist-heavy districts, including improving streetscapes, signage, and public art. Collaborate with local artists and volunteers to enhance the city's aesthetic appeal.

8. The Paden Administration will expand Digital Infrastructure

Provide free public Wi-Fi in tourist areas and create an online portal for tourism services, events, and local business promotions, along with virtual tours to attract remote visitors.

9. The Paden Administration will establish a Tourism Development Fund

Create a dedicated fund for tourism development, sourced from private donations, local businesses, and tourism taxes, to support new attractions, festivals, and infrastructure improvements.

10. The Paden Administration will strengthen Education and Community Engagement

Work with local schools and universities to incorporate Clarksdale's cultural heritage into the curriculum, and engage residents in decision-making through town halls and surveys to shape the future of tourism and business.

As mayor, focusing on expanding tourism, leveraging Clarksdale's cultural assets, fostering entrepreneurship, and seeking external funding opportunities are key strategies to stimulate economic growth. Through creative partnerships, thoughtful infrastructure improvements, and a focus on local culture, Clarksdale can thrive even in the face of financial constraints.

REPRESENTATIVE ORLANDO W. PADEN'S PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN: TACKLING CRIME WITH LIMITED RESOURCES

Our objective is to create a safer and more secure environment in Clarksdale by focusing on crime prevention, community engagement, and resource allocation without overburdening the city's limited budget.

Our 10 Actionable Goals for Tackling Crime in Clarksdale

1. The Paden Administration will implement Community Policing Initiatives

We will increase police visibility and engagement in neighborhoods, with officers attending local events and spending more time in high-crime areas to build trust and gather intelligence.

2. The Paden Administration will support Neighborhood Watch Programs

We will empower residents by creating or supporting neighborhood watch programs, offering tools and training for identifying and reporting suspicious behavior, while fostering collaboration with law enforcement.

3. The Paden Administration will provide Officer Training in De-Escalation and Crisis Intervention

We will offer regular training to officers on non-violent conflict resolution and how to handle mental health crises to ensure more effective and compassionate policing.

4. The Paden Administration will collaborate with Local Businesses on Security Initiatives

We will partner with businesses to install security cameras in high-traffic or crime-prone areas and encourage footage sharing with police for improved crime-solving efforts.

5. The Paden Administration will expand Youth Engagement Programs

We will develop after-school programs, sports leagues, and mentorship opportunities in partnership with schools, churches, and local organizations to provide at-risk youth with positive activities.

6. The Paden Administration will create Job Training and Internship Programs for Youth

We will partner with local businesses and organizations to provide job readiness training, internships, and career exploration opportunities for young adults to deter them from criminal activity.

7. The Paden Administration will establish Diversion Programs for Juvenile Offenders

We will work with the court system to provide alternatives to traditional incarceration, such as community service, education, or counseling, to help reduce recidivism among youth offenders.

8. The Paden Administration will create Mental Health Crisis Response Teams

We will collaborate with mental health professionals to develop teams that respond to mental health crises, reducing the need for police intervention and offering specialized care.

9. The Paden Administration will expand Substance Abuse Prevention Programs

We will support and expand addiction recovery services, rehabilitation programs, and educational campaigns, partnering with local hospitals and nonprofits to prevent substance abuse and related crimes.

10. The Paden Administration will deploy Mobile Mental Health Units

If feasible, we will implement mobile units to visit areas with mental health or addiction concerns, reducing emergency calls to the police and allowing officers to focus on more pressing crimes.

As mayor, the key to enhancing public safety in Clarksdale with limited funds lies in focusing on prevention, community engagement, and smart resource allocation. By leveraging existing community resources, fostering partnerships, and implementing evidence-based crime prevention strategies, Clarksdale can reduce crime and improve public safety, even with constrained financial resources. Community policing, youth programs, mental health services, and collaboration with local stakeholders are all crucial steps to creating a safer, more vibrant city. This plan requires minimal funding beyond reallocating existing resources and encouraging more proactive, relationship-based policing strategies.

REPRESENTATIVE ORLANDO W. PADEN'S CITY BEAUTIFICATION PLAN FOR CLARKSDALE

Our objective is to clean up and enhance the appearance of Clarksdale by ensuring streets are regularly maintained, debris is cleared, and sewer drainage systems are operable. The goal is to have a cleaner, safer, and more vibrant city.

Weekly Street Sweeping and Clean-up

- 1. The Paden Administration will assign members of Clarksdale Public Works to visit one street per week** for a thorough cleaning. The team will sweep the streets, remove debris, and address any litter or waste in the area.
- 2. Public Works staff will ensure that all streets are cleaned systematically,** rotating throughout the city to ensure no area is neglected.

Debris Removal and Waste Management

- 1. The Paden Administration will ensure that all public works staff have the necessary tools** (e.g., brooms, trash bags, and dumpsters) to efficiently remove trash, discarded items, and debris from the streets.
- 2. A tracking system will be implemented** to monitor which areas have been cleaned each week and track the removal of waste to ensure accountability.

Sewer Drainage Maintenance

- 1. We will inspect and clean sewer drainages on a weekly basis** as part of the street cleaning process to ensure they are operable and free of blockages.
- 2. We will clear debris, leaves, and other obstructions** from drainages to prevent flooding and ensure proper water flow during rain events.

Community Engagement and Awareness

- 1. The Paden Administration will work with local residents to keep streets clean,** encouraging community participation in beautification efforts. This may include organizing neighborhood clean-up days and educating residents on waste disposal and the importance of keeping the city clean.

2. **We will establish a hotline or online reporting system** to allow residents to report areas that need attention or maintenance.

Monitoring and Accountability

1. **The Paden Administration will create a tracking report** that includes the completed streets and areas that have been cleaned and maintained. Weekly progress updates will be given to the mayor's office.
2. **Regular assessments will be done** to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan and adjust as needed.

Resource Allocation and Budgeting

1. **The Paden Administration will allocate necessary resources and funding** to ensure Public Works has the required equipment and staff to carry out this plan effectively.
2. **Grants and funding opportunities will be explored** to support the long-term maintenance and beautification of the city.

By implementing this actionable plan, the Paden Administration will work to make Clarksdale a cleaner, more beautiful city, improve public health, and create a positive environment for residents and visitors.

REPRESENTATIVE ORLANDO W. PADEN'S YOUTH MAYORAL COUNCIL

*As Mayor of Clarksdale, I will establish a **Youth Mayoral Council**, a new initiative aimed at giving our young people from elementary to high school a voice in shaping the future of our city. This council will provide students with an opportunity to actively participate in local government, express their ideas, and contribute to the decision-making process on issues that affect their lives and communities.*

The duties of the Youth Mayoral Council will include:

- a. Advising the Mayor's Office** on matters that impact youth in Clarksdale, including education, recreational activities, and community development.
- b. Organizing and participating in community service projects** that address local needs and promote civic responsibility among young people.
- c. Facilitating open communication** between the youth of Clarksdale and the city government by gathering input and feedback from their peers on important issues.
- d. Planning and hosting youth-focused events** to raise awareness and build stronger connections within our community.
- e. Participating in regular meetings** with the Mayor and City Council to discuss youth-related concerns, ideas, and solutions.

Our goal is to empower Clarksdale's youth by giving them an active role in local governance and providing them with the platform to help make a difference in their community. Through this council, we hope to nurture leadership skills, foster civic pride, and ensure that the voices of young people are heard and valued.

REPRESENTATIVE ORLANDO W. PADEN'S CITY-WIDE AI TECHNOLOGY PREPAREDNESS

We MUST prepare Clarksdale for the Future of Artificial Intelligence

As Mayor of Clarksdale, I would ensure that our city is ready for the future. One of the most transformative forces shaping our world is **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, which will undoubtedly have both positive and negative effects over the next five years.

As technology continues to evolve, we must proactively prepare our community to embrace the opportunities and address the challenges AI will bring.

Here are key steps I believe we should take to ensure Clarksdale is well-prepared for the future of AI:

1. Investing in Education and Workforce Development

The Paden Administration will prioritize educating our community on the potential of AI and its impact on the workforce. By collaborating with local schools, universities, and technical colleges, we will offer AI-focused curricula, coding workshops, and training programs to equip students and workers with the skills needed to thrive in an AI-driven economy.

We will also establish **partnerships with tech companies and experts** to bring AI literacy programs to Clarksdale, ensuring that our residents understand the technology and how to use it for both career advancement and personal development.

2. Fostering Local AI Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The Paden Administration will support local businesses and startups by providing resources and incentives for those interested in integrating AI technologies into their operations. From small businesses to larger enterprises, AI can help increase efficiency, reduce costs, and drive innovation.

We will also establish **a business incubator or innovation hub** in Clarksdale that specifically focuses on AI and technology startups, encouraging young entrepreneurs to explore the potential of AI and create solutions for challenges in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, and more.

3. Building AI Infrastructure and Digital Connectivity

To harness the power of AI, Clarksdale must have a strong digital infrastructure.

The Paden Administration will invest in expanding high-speed internet access across the city, particularly in underserved areas. With robust digital connectivity, our residents and businesses will have access to the tools and resources needed to adopt AI technologies.

We will also explore partnerships with tech companies to establish **AI powered public services**, such as virtual assistants for city services, AI-driven traffic management, and predictive analytics for public safety.

By taking these steps, Clarksdale can ensure that we are not only prepared for the future of AI but also positioned to thrive in it. Our goal is to create a city that embraces technological innovation while protecting the interests of all its residents. We must work together to shape a future where AI enhances our quality of life, promotes economic growth, and fosters equity for everyone in Clarksdale.