Official Mission Statement

The Alabama Prison Reform Proposal exists to create a safer, smarter, and more humane corrections system that strengthens communities, reduces violence, supports victims, and prepares incarcerated individuals for successful reentry. Our mission is to replace a failing, costly system with one rooted in accountability, rehabilitation, innovation, and human dignity—building a safer Alabama for all.

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REFORM PROPOSAL

FACT SHEET

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1. **Alabama Prison System at a Glance**

Overcrowding

- ADOC houses 21,000+ people in facilities built for 12,115 beds — nearly 180% overcrowded.
- Some major facilities operate at 200%+ capacity.

Violence & Death Rates

- Alabama has one of the highest prison death rates in the United States.
- 335 deaths in 2023
- 274 deaths in 2024
- High rates of homicide, suicide, drug overdose

Staffing Crisis

- ADOC continues to face severe staffing shortages.
- Many dorms run with 1 officer overseeing 100–200 incarcerated people.
- Staffing shortages directly increase violence and federal liability.

Population Trend

- Despite massive spending, the population continues to grow rather than decline.
- Jurisdictional prison population (2025): 28,246
- 12-month increase: +818

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2. The Cost of Alabama's Failing Prison System

$5 Billion Spent in 5 Years
- Alabama has spent over $5 billion on prisons since 2022, including:
- Annual ADOC budgets
- Prison construction
- Debt service
- Legal expenses

Comparison to Other Needs
- ADOC consumes 22–25% of the General Fund, while:
- Mental Health receives ~8%
- Public Health receives ~3%
- Human Resources receives ~4.5%

High Costs with Low Returns
- Violence remains high
- Conditions remain unconstitutional
- Recidivism remains costly
- Large portions of ADOC resources go to lawsuits, medical costs, and staffing overtime

Megaprison Costs
- Elmore megaprisons projected at $1.2B+
- Additional bonding authority requested for Escambia build

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3. Work Release, Labor, and Public Safety

Prison Labor System

- Over 10,000 incarcerated people have worked outside Alabama prisons since 2018.
- More than 500 businesses have used prison labor in the past five years.
- State garnishes 40% of wages, plus fees for transport and laundry.

Public Safety Contradictions

- The state allows incarcerated men and women to work:
- In restaurants
- At manufacturing plants
- In distribution centers
- On unsupervised passes

Yet denies parole to these same individuals by labeling them "too dangerous to release."

Documented Injuries & Fatalities

- People have died on outside work assignments due to:
- Unsafe vehicles
- Industrial accidents
- Lack of supervision
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4. Why Smart Reform Works

Education = Safer Communities
- Correctional education reduces recidivism by 43% (national data).
- Incarcerated individuals who earn credentials are significantly more employable.

Reentry Support Reduces Crime
- Stable housing, job placement, and therapy reduce new offenses.
- States with strong reentry programs experience lower violent crime.

Less Overcrowding = Less Violence
- Federal studies show that overcrowded prisons have far higher assault rates.
- Safe, humane facilities reduce chaos and improve officer retention.

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5. The Alabama Solution — Key Benefits

- The Five Pillars
  - Revive: Modernize safety, staffing, and facilities
  - Rehabilitate: Expand education, therapy, and drug treatment
  - Rebuild: Workforce development and vocational training
  - Restore: Victim-centered accountability and family stability
  - Release: Structured reentry, housing, and employment pipelines

Projected Outcomes
- Lower recidivism
- Fewer assaults on staff
- Lower taxpayer costs
- Greater transparency and accountability
- A safer Alabama overall

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