

JONATHAN LEE

DEMOCRAT FOR MAYOR

GETTING THE JOB DONE FOR JACKSON.



Dear Neighbor,

Like you, Jackson is my home. Three generations of my family have lived in Georgetown. I run a business, Mississippi Products, Inc., in South Jackson. My wife, Davetta, and I chose to raise our family here: we have a two-year-old daughter, Morgan, and attend Anderson United Methodist Church.

I believe in Jackson. From my work with community organizations throughout the city, I am convinced our city has the chance to be great. That's why I'm running for Mayor. I believe that – through collaboration and a focus on action and innovative ideas – we can build a truly great city. Together.

In the following pages, I have outlined my plan for helping make Jackson a stronger, more vibrant city. I focus on what I call our CORE issues: Crime, Opportunities for Employment and Economic Development, Repairing our Infrastructure, and Education. These are the areas that our city must address immediately, and as Mayor, I will.

I look forward to working for – and with – you.

JONATHAN

CRIME AND PERSONAL SAFETY

Crime affects us all. It reduces our property values, discourages business investment and tourism, and puts our safety at risk. It's critical that we reduce Jackson's crime rate, because a safe city is a strong city.

Reducing crime requires short-term and long-term strategies.

By providing our citizens with more jobs and ensuring our children have a good education, we can increase economic activity and reduce crime. That's why Education and Opportunities for Employment and Economic Development are both part of my CORE focus. Still, these strategies take time, and for families and businesses looking for immediate help, we can't wait.

As Mayor, I will take several steps immediately to begin addressing this problem – and ensuring that our families and communities are safe.

I WILL:

- **HIRE AN INDEPENDENT AND HIGHLY QUALIFIED POLICE CHIEF.**
- **WORK WITH STATE LEGAL OFFICIALS TO PREVENT HABITUAL CRIMINALS FROM GETTING BACK ON OUR STREETS.**
- **IDENTIFY CRIME HOT SPOTS AND TARGET PERSONNEL.**
- **RE-ESTABLISH DRUG AND ILLEGAL GUN TASKFORCES.**
- **STRENGTHEN THE CRIME LAB TO HELP POLICE OFFICERS SOLVE CRIMES.**
- **COLLABORATE TO REDUCE CRIME IN THE METRO.**
- **EQUIP COMMUNITIES AND INFLUENCERS WITH PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES.**
- **REBUILD THE CULTURE OF THE JACKSON POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

HIRE AN INDEPENDENT AND HIGHLY QUALIFIED POLICE CHIEF.

Political appointments should not score "political points." They should get results.

As mayor, I will appoint a five-person committee to work with me to recruit and hire a police chief. The committee will be composed of representatives from the police force, the business community, and our neighborhood organizations. The committee will retain an independent search firm to find the most qualified candidates for the job. Once we have a list of candidates, I will have the committee participate in interviews with me – and help select the best person for the job.

Once the best candidate is hired, he or she will be subject to only one personnel evaluation: Is crime going down?

In the interim, while we are searching for a permanent chief, the committee will work with me to choose an interim chief, to start work immediately.

WORK WITH STATE PROSECUTORS AND JUDGES TO PREVENT HABITUAL CRIMINALS FROM GETTING BACK ON OUR STREETS.

When I talk with our police officers and our citizens, one of the most common complaints I hear is how many repeat offenders are out on the streets.

One of the reasons for this is that we have is that when our police officers make an arrest, it is largely the responsibility of the district attorney to try the case, the circuit judges to hear the case, and the corrections department to imprison anyone convicted of a crime.

These are state officials – not city officials, and we simply don't have enough prosecutors and judges to handle the number of crimes being committed in Jackson. Unfortunately, the people who are committing crimes, know this.

One of my first priorities as Mayor will be to meet with the Governor, the heads of relevant legislative committees, and judicial officials to give Hinds County some temporary assistance. This will help us clear out the backlog, try cases currently on the docket, and make clear to people wanting to commit crimes that the game has changed.

We will also find ways to provide temporary funding to increase the number of prosecutors and ensure we give real meaning to the term "speedy trial."

IDENTIFY CRIME HOTSPOTS AND TARGET PERSONNEL.

Around the country, police are using new and innovative strategies not just to solve crime – but to prevent it. It's important that our police force and communities be able to access those same tools.

I will ensure the city is using data and new technologies to identify and predict high-crime areas on a day-to-day basis. Once these areas have been identified, we will assign special teams of officers and investigators to those areas.

Additional tactics will include:

- Implementing daily foot and bicycle patrols throughout neighborhoods.
- Developing, training and empowering a strong network of Neighborhood Watch organizations throughout the city.
- Modernizing crime reporting systems so citizens can report non-emergency issues via text message or the Internet.

RE-ESTABLISH DRUG AND ILLEGAL GUN TASKFORCES.

There's no excuse for not having special teams of officers and investigators, working with prosecutors, to focus on illegal drugs and gun trafficking. Both are underlying crimes that influence additional criminal activity. I will work with the police chief and department heads to establish taskforces with other crime fighting agencies to get illegal guns, drugs and gangs off our streets.

STRENGTHEN THE CRIME LAB TO HELP POLICE OFFICERS SOLVE CRIMES.

We can't ask our police officers to solve crimes without giving them the very best equipment, tools and training. Technology has created opportunities for fighting crime that didn't even exist five years ago. From ensuring our crime lab is equipped with cutting-edge technology to establishing stronger relations with the state and federal crime labs, I am committed to guaranteeing our city's officers and communities are never compromised.

COLLABORATE TO REDUCE CRIME IN THE METRO.

Within the metro area, there are three county governments and ten municipal governments. All of these governments – in addition to state and federal agencies – have their own law enforcement agencies.

Unfortunately, city and county boundaries mean nothing to criminals. In fact, they criminals often use them to their advantage.

To counter that, we must work together with all parties involved. I will ensure communication channels remain open and that investigations and prosecutions are coordinated. After all, a strong partnership within the Metro means winning results for everyone.

EQUIP COMMUNITIES AND INFLUENCERS WITH PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES.

Beyond our police force, some of Jackson's strongest crime fighters are its communities. That's why, as Mayor, I will work to arm citizens and neighborhoods with preventive strategies and other violence-prevention resources. Additionally, I will partner with community groups, churches, schools, neighborhoods and other civic organizations in their efforts to raise awareness of the effects of violence in our city.

By showing that crime is not welcome in our communities, we can take significant steps to reducing its presence.

REBUILD THE CULTURE OF THE JACKSON POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Finally, the Jackson Police Department is an invaluable part of keeping our community safe and strong. I will make sure that I keep it safe and strong, too.

To do this, I will work closely with JPD leadership to stabilize work shifts, set clear paths for career advancement and fairly compensate officers for the time they work. I will also make sure we recruit, train and retain the best and brightest police officers for our force.

I will also work to re-establish trust and communication between officers and leadership – as well between officers and communities where trust has broken down. As Mayor, I am committed to working with JPD to build a culture based on accountability, transparency, professionalism and a commitment to excellence.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A strong economy fights crimes, increases property values and raises standards of living. As a business owner, I know that when people are working, everything else starts working, too. Business and job growth powers economies and strengthens communities.

Still, sales tax revenue in Jackson has decreased nearly 22 percent from just five years ago. We must reverse that decline. As Mayor I will work tirelessly to create an environment in which businesses – and people – can thrive.

WHILE REDUCING CRIME AND REPAIRING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE BOTH PLAY CRITICAL ROLES IN DEVELOPING AN ECONOMY, HERE'S WHAT ELSE WE CAN DO:

- **CREATE A BUSINESS RELATIONS LIAISON DIVISION THAT WORKS WITH EXISTING BUSINESSES.**
- **EMPHASIZE AND ENCOURAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP.**
- **CREATE CLEAR PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT.**
- **USE ACCESS TO SAFE, AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOL.**
- **STREAMLINE AND IMPROVE SERVICE IN ALL CITY DEPARTMENTS.**

CREATE A BUSINESS RELATIONS LIAISON DIVISION THAT WORKS WITH EXISTING BUSINESSES.

Just imagine what a strong partnership between the city and the business community could mean for Jackson. As a business owner myself, I know what businesses need to succeed in Jackson. The city should be a partner in growth – that helps identify needs and addresses problems. As Mayor, I will create a team of professionals specially focused on building relationships with businesses throughout our city.

We cannot afford to wait until a crisis hits to offer help to businesses. As Mayor, I'll make sure we're proactive, not reactive.

EMPHASIZE AND ENCOURAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

Jackson is home to creative, entrepreneurial people, yet too often high-potential individuals are not given the support they need to flourish. As Mayor, I will create a team of small business experts who can work with existing agencies, community colleges, and universities to target areas with high unemployment. The team will recruit small businesses and self-employed persons to open storefronts in these areas.

After all, the way we break the cycle of unemployment in Jackson is the same way we break the cycle of crime – by targeting the hotspots.

My administration will focus on all of Jackson – not just the high-traffic areas. By focusing special resources on pockets of high unemployment, we will spur small business growth that can push back against crime and decay.

CREATE CLEAR PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT.

Jackson has two four-year colleges, two universities, an academic medical center, and a community college – in addition to most state and federal government offices. They have resources for job training programs, work-study programs, internships, and other skill-development programs.

We must be talking with them every day to tap those resources. As Mayor, I will appoint one person from my staff whose only responsibility is identifying workforce programs and making them real opportunities for our residents.

USE ACCESS TO SAFE, AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOL.

For many people, transportation is not a given. It is the city's responsibility to ensure that Jacksonians can make it to their jobs safely and on time. To do this, I will make sure JATRAM bus routes are delivering people where they need to go. I will also implement a "complete streets" program that utilizes sidewalks and bike lanes as economic development tools. A safe, viable transportation system can and will be a game-changer for Jackson.

STREAMLINE AND IMPROVE SERVICE IN ALL CITY DEPARTMENTS.

My administration will also abandon the slow reactive strategies that currently define City Hall, and we will concentrate on building common sense practices that are easy to navigate. At City Hall, the emphasis will be on competence and superior customer service. Moreover, we will overhaul and simplify the permitting process by providing online resources that outline required permits and fees. I will also make sure applications and fee payments can be completed online. Finally, I am committed to developing an interactive city website that allows each business to report and track the progress of services and reported issues with the click of a button.

As Mayor, I will ensure the city does everything in its power to maximize Jackson's economic activity. By promoting entrepreneurship and cultivating a business-friendly environment, we can grow all parts of the city.

REPAIRING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

There is no excuse for allowing our municipal roads, water and sewer systems to deteriorate. But they have.

As with fighting crime, there are long-term solutions and short-term solutions. We can't repair the underlying water and sewer piping systems overnight, nor can we repair every street in two months. But, we can no longer use the overwhelming task we face as an excuse to do nothing.

More importantly, for every dollar we spend in Jackson repairing our infrastructure, we create jobs. Lots of jobs. That's why, for every repair or rebuilding project the city funds, we will be committed to employing Jackson residents. After all, employed citizens are the most important foundation on which our city stands.

Right now, many of our infrastructure challenges stem from two primary problems – one is funding.

1) THERE IS A LACK OF DISCIPLINE ABOUT FUNDING REGULAR REPAIRS.

2) THERE IS NO REAL PLAN TO OVERSEE CONSISTENT MAINTENANCE.

MY PLAN ADDRESSES BOTH. HERE'S WHAT I WILL DO:

- **ENSURE AND SEEK OUT FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.**
- **CREATE A SYSTEM THAT IDENTIFIES, PRIORITIZES, AND ADDRESSES INFRASTRUCTURE PROBLEMS.**
- **IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR.**
- **BEGIN WORK ON THE MOST CRITICAL PROJECTS WITHIN 150 DAYS.**

ENSURE AND SEEK OUT FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

Right now at the beginning of each Fiscal Year, the City has both the funds and the personnel to repair and maintain streets, ditches, creeks, and drains. But, somehow, that money ends up going to other city expenses.

As Mayor, I will create a Capital City fund solely dedicated to street repairs, street resurfacing, and other infrastructure repairs. This fund will not be a result of any tax or fee increases. Instead, it will remove the money budgeted for infrastructure from the city's General Fund and will place it in a separate "untouchable" fund slated for infrastructure maintenance only. This is important, because it keeps us committed to maintaining our infrastructure – something our current administration has not done.

Even beyond the City's budget, I will work hard to bring in outside dollars that can address our infrastructure needs. To do this, I will:

- Aggressively seek federal grant dollars to pay for the costs of street resurfacing.
- Form partnerships with Hinds County to create a comprehensive maintenance plan that combines both city and county resources to address street resurfacing and pothole repairs.
- Build a compelling case to the Mississippi State Legislature to help fund resurfacing projects.

CREATE A SYSTEM THAT IDENTIFIES, PRIORITIZES, AND ADDRESSES INFRASTRUCTURE PROBLEMS.

It does us no good to repave streets if the streets are not regularly maintained.

That's why a key part of my plan for infrastructure is retaining a team of engineers to identify and rate the Jackson streets that must be repaired or resurfaced. Next, the team will rate each street according to priorities and identify the ones that can be resurfaced without being rebuilt and that are not affected by underlying piping systems.

I also plan to create "Street Teams" through the Department of Public Works which will be specifically designed to identify and fix potholes and repair our streets. This will include a 72-Hour Pothole Street Resurfacing Program and a 72-Hour Stopped-up Drainage program. That means if you have a problem, we'll get it fixed.

IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR.

If calling 311 brings no results, we are wasting time and money. As Mayor, I will ensure the City remains accountable to its citizens.

First off, by using innovations in technology, I plan to allow citizens to report "Problems With the Pavement" online, over the phone, or through their smartphones.

I will also improve accountability by creating a position solely responsible for overseeing the maintenance of our roads, ditches, creeks, and drains. This will ensure that infrastructure never falls through the cracks and, instead, remains a priority. We will also allow citizens to track repairs in real-time throughout the city 24 hours a day.

Finally, by working with the City Council and the Hinds County Board of Supervisors, I will push for the City to publish a real-time street resurfacing schedule, so citizens are no longer in the dark about how their tax dollars are being spent and when their street will be repaired.

BEGIN WORK ON THE MOST CRITICAL PROJECTS WITHIN 150 DAYS.

I also know Jackson has some critical needs which cannot be ignored any longer.

I will work with state and federal regulatory officials to identify the water and sewer problems that must be addressed, prioritize the most critical issues, and develop a plan with state officials to get it funded.

Three years ago, the Legislature passed a proposal of letting the metro area voters choose whether or not to adopt a one cent sales tax increase that would fund water, sewer and street repairs. The current mayor has prevented our citizens from voting on it – or even debating it. A substantial share of our funding to repair our infrastructure could come from this proposal. Hundreds of new jobs could be created by this proposal. I will remove the roadblocks and get it on the ballot.

EDUCATION

In addition to creating economic development opportunities, the other long-term solution to fighting crime and raising our standard of living is making sure every child has a high-quality education opportunity. A great school system serves as a magnet for talent, businesses, and families.

Mayors across the nation have realized that cities live and die base on the quality of their city's public schools. Why have we not realized this here in Jackson?

Jackson is home to approximately 30,000 public education students – a major asset that could potentially lay a foundation for an entrepreneurial population, a stronger community, and a safer thriving city.

MY PLAN FOR EDUCATION IS TO:

- **APPOINT HIGHLY QUALIFIED SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS WITH VESTED INTEREST IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN.**
- **CULTIVATE A PRO-EDUCATION PRESENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES.**
- **CREATE A NETWORK OF CHILDCARE AND PRE SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS.**
- **CREATE A ROBUST CITYWIDE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.**
- **CREATE A STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE MAYOR.**
- **SET AMBITIOUS CITYWIDE EDUCATION GOALS.**

APPOINT HIGHLY QUALIFIED SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS WITH VESTED INTEREST IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN.

As Mayor, one of my most important responsibilities will be appointing members of the school board. In the same way that choosing a police chief should be independent and free from politics, so should members of that seven-person board. A similar committee to the one that will help me choose a police chief will be put in place to help me choose school board members.

CULTIVATE A PRO-EDUCATION PRESENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

A strong school is built by a strong community. As Mayor, I will work to enforce truancy laws to ensure our children are off the streets and in the classroom. Beyond that, I will also create and maintain partnerships between City Hall, Jackson Public Schools, churches, and community and civic organizations. Equipping communities and civic organizations with the tools to help their local schools thrive is critical to developing successful schools and students.

CREATE A NETWORK OF CHILDCARE AND PRESCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS.

Every child deserves to enter kindergarten prepared to learn, but too many children are already behind the first day of school. As Mayor, I will work to create a network of childcare and preschool organizations throughout Jackson. I will work to create opportunities for these organizations to learn and work with each other, while making sure our most vulnerable of citizens are ready and eager to start kindergarten.

CREATE A ROBUST CITYWIDE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.

For high school students who want to participate in work-study programs or who want to bring their book learning to real world experiences, I will work to create an internship program for motivated students. I will also have a staff member dedicated to creating internships for high school students with local businesses and other government agencies.

CREATE A STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE MAYOR.

One voice that is often not heard in the conversation about our city is our youth. Still, they are our future – and a large part of what should give us hope about our city. As Mayor, I will create an advisory committee to the mayor composed of the student body presidents from all of our city high schools. This will give them an opportunity to meet with me once a month and to advise me on any matter they want to talk about.

SET AMBITIOUS CITYWIDE EDUCATION GOALS.

Finally, and most importantly, I am committed to achieving serious educational progress for our City. To do this, I will create a community-supported coalition that works to achieve the following education goals:

- Enroll 100% of all eligible Kindergarten-age children in Jackson.
- Ensure every graduating 3rd Grader can read at or above grade level.
- Increase graduation rates.
- Prepare all students for either college or a career.

WHO IS JONATHAN LEE?

Businessman, husband, father and proud Jacksonian, Jonathan Lee is running for Mayor of the City of Jackson because it is our city's time for GREATNESS.

Jonathan was born, grew up and lives in Jackson.

Jonathan was born and raised in Jackson into a family with deep ties throughout the community. The son of two Lanier graduates and part of a family whose roots span three generations in Jackson's Georgetown community, Jonathan learned early what it meant to be proud of one's city.

Jonathan called all of Jackson home – from growing up on Meadow Lane to getting picked up by his grandmother ("Big Mama") after school who lived in Georgetown. After graduating from high school, Jonathan attended Mississippi State University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and a Master's in Business Administration.

Today, Jonathan lives in Jackson with his wife, Davetta, and their two year-old daughter, Morgan Elizabeth. They are active members of Anderson United Methodist Church.

Jonathan is committed to Jackson.

Jonathan's parents – John and Ruby Jean Lee – always taught him about the importance of taking an active role in the community, and it is something Jonathan has prioritized throughout his career.

From serving on the boards of several city non-profits to helping host a weekly community discussion in West Jackson (Friday Forum at Koinonia Coffee House), Jonathan is invested in seeing our communities strengthen and flourish.

Jonathan is prepared to lead.

When Jonathan was 24 years old, his father suddenly passed away after a short battle with cancer, and from that moment, Jonathan not only became the head of his family – but also the head of his father's business.

Remembering one of his father's most important lessons, Jonathan built a highly qualified team of experts to help navigate through the transition.

Today, the South Jackson business continues to grow – and remains committed to the area. Jonathan knows how to help Jackson businesses and communities grow.

Outside of his business experience, Jonathan also serves on the boards of Baptist Hospital and the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, which he previously chaired.

Want to learn more about Jonathan? Find answers to some of his most frequently asked questions by visiting WWW.JONATHANLEEFORJACKSON.COM/ASKJONATHAN

JONATHAN'S COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND RECOGNITIONS:

- Past Chairman, Jackson Chamber of Commerce
- Executive Board of Directors, Operation Shoestring
- Board of Directors, Midtown Partners
- Past Board Member, I.S. Sanders Farish Street YMCA
- Former Board Member, Greater Jackson Arts Council
- Adopt-A-School Program, Sustainer, Jackson Public Schools
- Young Influential, Jackson Free Press
- Former Executive Board Member of the Mississippi Minority Business Alliance
- National Young Alumni of the Year, Mississippi State University
- Convener, Friday Forum at Koinonia
- Outstanding Service Award, Jackson Convention Center
- United Way Golden Rule Award for Service and Volunteerism
- Membership Chair, Rotary Club of Jackson
- Board of Directors, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center
- Member, Leadership Jackson
- Past President, Central Mississippi MSU Alumni Chapter
- United Way Allocations Committee
- Past Event Chairman, American Heart Association
- National Alumni Board of Directors, Mississippi State University
- Editorial Board, Clarion Ledger
- Diversity Supplier Committee, University of Mississippi Medical Center



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