

PETER BROWN**GENE LOCKE****ANNISE PARKER****ECONOMY**

To keep Houston's economy growing and attract new, good-paying jobs to the area we need a to start with clear vision and a commitment to keeping Houston business-friendly by keeping taxes low and streamlining regulations. My strategy will help grow existing businesses and attract new companies, top level talent, and new, good-paying jobs to Houston with an Office of Economic Development and Job Creation, tasked with recruiting new business, developing existing companies, and helping start-ups and small businesses thrive.

The mayor needs to use every tool available to bring new jobs and businesses to Houston. Houston must remain a leader in job growth and business development. As mayor I will use incentives, and tax abatements to help new and existing businesses. Finally, we need to make U of H a Tier One institution.

My Hire Houston First policy will encourage the city to contract with local businesses that create local jobs. My energy plan will create high-wage jobs and help make Houston the center of the new energy economy.

BUDGET

After personally working to cut waste from city contracts I know how significant efficiencies and savings can be found with strong oversight, which is why I would make sure my department directors protect taxpayer dollars by finding more efficiencies, reducing waste and economizing. At the same time, we need to fight declining revenues by growing our economy and creating more jobs for our residents.

The first task of the next mayor is to take a careful look at every dollar that the city is spending. I believe that we can find efficiencies in existing departments. Past that, we need to make sure that any cuts we make do not fall on any one neighborhood or department.

I will look at all reasonable options for balancing the budget. I will not raise taxes in this economic downturn. I have identified items in my Controller's audits that could save the city millions – many of these recommendations have not yet been implemented - I will start there as mayor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Keeping Houston safe will be my top priority. My Get Tough, Get Smart public safety blueprint calls for decentralized policing to bring public safety resources closer to the neighborhoods where they're needed and ensuring policing strategies are tailored to each neighborhood. We need to put more police officers on the beat in neighborhoods instead of behind desks downtown. And we'll empower our law enforcement officers with the tools they need to fight and prevent crime.

The biggest public safety issue facing Houston is that more than half of our officers are at or near the age of retirement. We need to increase the number of officers on the street or we will face a public safety crisis.

I am the only candidate with a plan to put more police officers on the street and a realistic way to pay for it without paying taxes.

ENVIRONMENT

I believe air quality is the biggest environmental issue facing Houston because it creates health problems and decreases the attractiveness of our city to potential businesses. I've worked alongside Mayor Bill White to reduce pollution by curbing benzene emissions, reducing congestion, and stopping illegal polluters. I'll continue this progress as Mayor.

We need to continue to improve our air and water quality or we risk our economic health. We need to work closely with our regional partners and with the state to ensure there is equal enforcement of all pollution violators.

I will continue and expand the policies of the current administration when it comes to the environment. I want a cleaner and greener city. We will continue to purchase renewable energy and alternative fuel vehicles for our fleet. We will continue to aggressively monitor air and water quality.



PETER BROWN**GENE LOCKE****ANNISE PARKER****TRANSPORTATION**

I've released a detailed Transportation Blueprint to keep Houston moving. To deal with traffic we've got to get the basics right: cut congestion, give residents real transportation choices, and focus on getting people where they want to go. I support light rail, as well as other efforts to deal with traffic congestion.

I believe that Houstonians need choices in transportation. We must do a better job moving people around the city. We need a great light rail system, a simple and an efficient bus system. We also need to reduce congestion on the roads with better park-and-rides and better HOV access.

I am committed to an integrated, multimodal transit system that includes everything from light rail to commuter rail, local buses, park & ride buses, better streets and sidewalks, and bike lanes. We need to explore implementing grade separation of the light and commuter rails at strategic intersections to alleviate traffic.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The city currently spends \$50 million each year— distributed across many small projects – to combat flooding. But as recent flooding has shown, our current policies do little to address the major drainage issues. I'm proposing a full-scale plan for maintaining our drainage systems so that they don't fail at the first sign of a thunderstorm.

We need to quickly repair our aging infrastructure. The longer we go without making a significant investment the more it will cost in the long run. We need to have a serious conversation with Houstonians about creating a dedicated fund that will be used to improve drainage, flooding and infrastructure.

I believe that drainage and flooding are public safety issues of the highest order; it is not okay to have water in your house. I am the only candidate with a detailed plan to improve the city's infrastructure that explains how I plan to pay for it.

IMMIGRATION (287G)

I do support 287(g) and believe that our city's policing efforts should be aimed at keeping residents safe and enforcing the law. It's critical that our communities build relationships of trust with our law enforcement in order to better facilitate their efforts.

When someone is arrested and in custody they are asked a series of questions, including their immigration status. As it is, our police department is understaffed, HPD officers should spend their time protecting our homes and families, not enforcing federal immigration policy and certainly not racial profiling.

I support using 287 (g) in the city jail the same way that Harris County and Sheriff Garcia use it in the county jail. I do not want officers inquiring about immigration status on the street because it would discourage Houstonians from contacting the police to report a crime.

DEVELOPMENT

Our city has a tremendous opportunity to drive productive, quality of life-enhancing development. Getting it right for our city's future will require the right combination of common sense standards and targeted incentives. As Mayor, I'll work to bring new businesses and new jobs to Houston while making sure that our infrastructure can support present and future development.

There is no one-sized fits all solution to development, while some neighborhoods need to protect their historic character, others need development and still others need to be completely rebuilt. Some tools to deal with development include Deed restrictions, Lot size & set-back ordinances, and special ordinances.

While on City Council, I authored and voted for the minimum lot size and minimum building line ordinances to give neighborhoods the democratic power of self-determination. I also am a supporter of strengthening deed restrictions so neighborhoods have the ability to self-determine.



PETER BROWN**GENE LOCKE****ANNISE PARKER****EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

I've tackled flooding and drainage issues my entire career and I know we can win the fight against flooding. I'm the only candidate with a detailed plan to tackle flooding. I'm proposing a full-scale plan for maintaining our drainage systems so that they don't fail at the first sign of a thunderstorm.

We need to have better coordination between various law enforcement agencies in the area. We need HPD to work closely with the METRO police, the HISD police, the County Constables and others. We have made great strides since Hurricane Ike but we need to continue to improve.

I am the only candidate who created the Rainy Day fund we used for recovery from Hurricane Ike and the only one with experience implementing a department's emergency plans. I will review and strengthen plans for emergencies, appoint disaster response experts, and ensure seamless coordination with all levels of government.

TECHNOLOGY

The City of Houston should better leverage technology to streamline government and bring it closer to citizens. I've recommended improving the City's website, putting more information online, and allowing Houstonians to text or use smart phone applications to send valuable information about service interruptions and graffiti to the City.

I definitely want to help close the digital divide and I want to keep NASA in the Houston area not just because it's a great economic engine force, it's important to the world in terms of the work that's done at NASA.

I believe that implementing and integrating technology into the city's operations is an imperative in these tough economic times – for example, I've saved millions by converting to paperless payroll. I will focus on using technology to foster cooperation among the various law enforcement agencies in the area.

METRO

I'm disappointed with the lack of progress and accountability we've seen from Metro. As Mayor, I'll use replace the board and chairman and use my experience and practical solutions to get results and keep us moving.

I believe that Houstonians need choices in transportation. We must do a better job moving people around the city. We need a great light rail system, a simple and an efficient bus system. We also need to reduce congestion on the roads with better park-and-rides and better HOV access.

I am a supporter of light rail, however, I am concerned that METRO is cannibalizing the bus system to boost ridership on the light rail. I feel METRO has been less than transparent and accountable to the communities it serves. For these reasons, I will appoint new leadership at METRO.

SPORTS STADIUMS

We've got to be sure when we build stadiums we're doing it the right way, that we're protecting taxpayers, and that's something I'll be very cognizant of as mayor. Stadiums can be an economic engine, but we have to protect tax payer dollars first.

I am committed to developing the soccer stadium on land presently owned by the COH with the promise from the Dynamo that they will cover construction costs. I am further committed to use TIRZ dollars to assist with infrastructure and landscaping in the area surrounding the stadium. My expectation is that the stadium will have a significant economic impact in improving the surrounding area, further, it will be a venue available for Texas Southern University and possible high school football games.

The city has already purchased the land for the proposed Dynamo Stadium. We are now waiting for Harris County and the Dynamo to come to the table and secure their funding. In these tough economic times, I will not promise any more city resources to projects we cannot afford.

