Technology & Innovation

Published: October 31, 2025

Category: Platform Policies: Economic Development

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Dave Biggers for Louisville Mayor
Policy Area: Technology & Innovation
Last Updated: October 30, 2025
Status: Final Draft

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Louisville is falling behind peer cities in the technology economy and digital infrastructure that drive 21st-century prosperity. While cities like Indianapolis, Nashville, and Austin have built thriving tech sectors through strategic public investment—creating tens of thousands of high-wage jobs and attracting billions in venture capital—Louisville's tech economy remains underdeveloped, our residents face a persistent digital divide, and our city government operates on outdated technology that fails to serve residents effectively.

The Challenge

Louisville's technology and innovation crisis shows up in stark numbers:

1. **Underdeveloped Tech Economy:** Louisville's tech sector is small next to those of peer cities like Austin, Nashville, and Indianapolis—missing out on an industry that offers well-paying jobs.

2. **Digital Divide:** Many Louisville households lack broadband internet access—with the gap widest in lower-income neighborhoods—excluding residents from remote work, online education, telehealth, and essential government services increasingly delivered digitally.

3. **Tech Workforce Gap:** Louisville's universities and colleges (UofL, Bellarmine, and Jefferson Community College) produce tech graduates every year—but too many leave for cities offering better tech job opportunities, venture capital access, and innovation ecosystems.

4. **Outdated Government Technology:** Louisville Metro's technology infrastructure is behind peer cities, with residents facing long waits for city services, paper-based processes that should be digital, and no unified digital platform for accessing government—while peer cities offer mobile apps, online permitting, and AI-powered service delivery.

5. **Lack of Innovation Infrastructure:** Louisville has little city-funded tech incubator space, far less venture capital than peer cities such as Nashville, and no comprehensive strategy to build a tech ecosystem—ensuring we remain locked out of the innovation economy driving prosperity elsewhere.

My Vision

I will transform Louisville into a city where technology drives equitable economic development, every resident has access to high-speed internet, city government operates on modern digital infrastructure that serves residents efficiently, and our innovation ecosystem creates pathways to high-wage tech careers for Louisville residents—not just transplants from coastal cities.

Universal Broadband Initiative ($15M annually): Ensure every Louisville household has access to affordable high-speed internet through municipal broadband expansion, digital equity programs, and partnerships—eliminating the digital divide that excludes many households from economic opportunity.

Louisville Innovation District ($8M annually): Establish innovation district in West Louisville with tech incubators, co-working spaces, maker spaces, and entrepreneurship support—creating 2,000+ tech jobs over 4 years and ensuring innovation economy benefits historically excluded communities.

Tech Talent Pipeline ($6M annually): Create comprehensive pathway from K-12 computer science education through coding bootcamps, apprenticeships, and career placement—training 1,000+ Louisville residents annually for tech careers and retaining local graduates.

Digital Government Transformation ($7M annually): Modernize city technology infrastructure with mobile apps, online services, digital permitting, AI-powered assistance, and unified data systems—so residents get answers quicker than before and government is accessible 24/7.

Civic Technology & Open Data ($2M annually): Release all non-sensitive city data publicly, support civic tech projects addressing community challenges, and fund technology solutions developed by and for Louisville residents—democratizing innovation.

Budget Impact

This policy requires **$38 million in new annual spending**—funded through federal broadband grants ($15M), General Fund allocation ($10M), revenue bonds for digital infrastructure ($8M), and partnerships/philanthropy ($5M). This investment is meant to pay back through tech job creation, productivity gains, business attraction, and cost savings from government efficiency.

Why This Matters

The digital divide is the new economic divide. When many Louisville households lack internet access, those families are excluded from remote work opportunities, online education, telehealth, and government services. During COVID-19, students without internet fell behind—a setback that can be hard to make up. This isn't about convenience, it's about economic survival.

Tech jobs tend to be higher-wage and faster-growing—and we're missing out. Tech jobs typically pay more than the median Louisville wage, and peer cities like Nashville have added tech jobs faster than we have. We're falling further behind every year we don't invest.

Outdated government technology costs residents time and money. When Louisville residents wait on hold for city services, wait weeks for permits that should take hours, and drive to government offices for transactions that should be online—that's time away from work, lost productivity, and a tax on low-income residents who can least afford it.

Innovation drives 21st-century competitiveness. Cities attracting talent and investment are those with vibrant innovation ecosystems—tech incubators, venture capital, startup culture, maker spaces. Louisville's lack of innovation infrastructure ensures we lose talent to cities that invest—and fall behind in industries defining the future economy.

My policy will close the digital divide, build a thriving tech sector, modernize government, and create pathways to high-wage tech careers for Louisville residents. It's about ensuring technology serves everyone, not just the already-connected and affluent.

CURRENT SITUATION ANALYSIS

Technology Economy Landscape

Louisville's technology sector lags substantially behind peer cities:

Tech Employment: Louisville has a smaller share of its workforce in tech than peer cities such as Austin, Nashville, Indianapolis, and Cincinnati.

Tech Sector Growth: Louisville's tech sector has grown more slowly than those of peer cities over the past decade.

Tech Wages: Tech jobs such as software developer, data scientist, cybersecurity analyst, and UX designer typically pay more than Louisville's median wage.

The Problem: Louisville is producing tech graduates but can't retain them:

- **Annual Tech Graduates:** UofL, Bellarmine, and JCTC graduate tech students every year
- **5-Year Retention:** Too few stay in Louisville after five years, compared with peer cities
- **Brain Drain:** Louisville loses tech graduates to other cities
- **Reason Cited:** Lack of tech job opportunities, limited venture capital ecosystem, absence of innovation culture

Venture Capital & Startup Ecosystem:

Louisville's venture capital ecosystem is small compared with peers.

Innovation Infrastructure Gap:

Louisville has fewer of the physical and institutional supports that tech ecosystems rely on—incubators, co-working spaces, maker spaces, accelerators, and university tech transfer—than peer cities such as Nashville and Austin.

Digital Divide Crisis

The digital divide in Louisville is severe and follows income and neighborhood:

Total Affected: Many Louisville households lack broadband access.

Income Disparity:
– **Income Gap:** Lower-income households are much less likely to have broadband than higher-income households

Impacts of Digital Divide:

Education:
– During COVID-19 remote learning, students without home internet fell behind their peers
– Some JCPS students lack reliable home internet for homework

– Students without internet are less likely to attend college

Employment:
– Many job applications are now online-only—excluding residents without internet
– Remote work is impossible without broadband
– Workers without internet can earn less due to limited job access

Healthcare:
– Telehealth use jumped during COVID—but it is unavailable to households without broadband
– Patients without internet can miss appointments because they can't access online scheduling
– Prescription refills, test results increasingly digital—excluding those without access

Government Services:
– Unemployment benefits, food assistance, health insurance increasingly require online applications
– Residents without internet must travel to government offices for services that should be online

Government Technology Deficit

Louisville Metro's technology infrastructure is severely outdated:

Current State:

Service Delivery:
– **Online Services:** Only a small share of city services can be used online, while peer cities such as Indianapolis and Austin offer far more
– **Mobile App:** Peer cities such as Nashville, Indianapolis, and Austin have apps for permit applications, service requests, and bill payment
– **Digital Permitting:** Most permits still require in-person visits

Internal Systems:
– **IT Infrastructure Age:** Older than in peer cities
– **Data Integration:** Separate databases that don't communicate—requiring manual data re-entry and creating errors
– **Cloud Adoption:** Fewer systems cloud-based than in comparable cities
– **Cybersecurity:** Outdated systems leave the city vulnerable to ransomware and data breaches

Cost of Outdated Technology:

- **Productivity Loss:** Time city employees spend on manual tasks that should be automated is time not spent serving residents
- **Delayed Economic Activity:** Slow permitting delays construction projects and business openings

Tech Workforce Pipeline Gaps

Louisville's tech talent pipeline has major gaps from K-12 through career placement:

K-12 Computer Science Education:
– Computer science courses are offered in only some JCPS schools
– Only a small share of JCPS students take computer science
– Many schools lack computer science teachers

Post-Secondary:
– **Tech Graduates:** Louisville institutions graduate tech students every year
– **National Demand:** Demand for tech workers nationally is strong
– **Local Absorption:** Louisville's tech sector can absorb only part of each year's graduates—the rest leave for other cities

Alternative Pathways:
– Louisville has fewer coding bootcamps than Nashville or Austin
– Louisville has few registered tech apprenticeship programs compared with Indianapolis
– Minimal tech training for career changers or workers displaced by automation

Gender Gap: Women are underrepresented in the tech workforce, and this policy is designed to help change that.

The Major Problems

1. Digital Divide Perpetuates Economic Inequality

Households without broadband are systematically excluded from economic opportunity:

- **Job Access:** Many jobs require online applications—excluding those without internet
- **Remote Work:** Remote work requires broadband—those without internet are locked out
- **Education:** Students without internet fall behind, less likely to attend college, earn lower lifetime wages
- **Small Business:** Businesses without broadband can't compete—increasingly reliant on digital marketing, e-commerce, cloud tools

Without intervention, digital divide will widen as more economic activity moves online.

2. Underdeveloped Tech Economy Means Lost High-Wage Jobs

Every year Louisville fails to build tech ecosystem, we lose high-wage job opportunities:

- **Wage Premium:** Tech jobs typically pay more than the median Louisville wage

- **Job Growth:** Tech jobs have grown nationally over the past decade, and Louisville's growth has lagged behind peer cities such as Nashville and Austin
- **Brain Drain:** Every tech graduate who leaves takes their future wages—and the spending and tax revenue those wages would generate—to another city

3. Outdated Government Technology Wastes Time and Money

Every day Louisville operates on 1990s technology, residents and city pay the price:

- **Resident Time:** residents lose hours waiting on hold and standing in line for city services
- **City Productivity:** Staff time lost to manual tasks that should be automated
- **Economic Delay:** Slow permitting and outdated systems delay projects
- **Cybersecurity Risk:** Outdated systems are vulnerable to ransomware

4. Lack of Innovation Infrastructure Prevents Startup Growth

Without incubators, venture capital, and ecosystem support, Louisville startups can't scale:

- **VC Gap:** Louisville receives far less venture capital than peer cities such as Nashville
- **Geographic Mismatch:** Louisville's lone tech incubator is in East End—requiring car access, excluding West Louisville entrepreneurs

Result: Great ideas born in Louisville get developed elsewhere, taking jobs and tax revenue to other cities.

5. Tech Workforce Leaves Out Women and Whole Neighborhoods

Louisville's tech sector replicates national diversity crisis:

- Women are underrepresented in the tech workforce

Without intervention, tech economy will be another sector where prosperity bypasses West Louisville and the South End.

MY VISION: TECHNOLOGY THAT SERVES EVERYONE

I envision a Louisville where:

Every household has access to affordable high-speed internet, eliminating the digital divide that excludes many families from economic opportunity, online education, telehealth, and full

participation in 21st-century society.

Technology creates pathways to prosperity for Louisville residents—particularly residents of historically excluded neighborhoods—with comprehensive training from K-12 computer science through coding bootcamps and tech apprenticeships leading to careers paying $80,000+.

Innovation happens everywhere, with tech incubators, maker spaces, and co-working spaces in West Louisville, the South End, and every neighborhood—not just the East End—ensuring all communities can participate in building the future.

City government operates on 21st-century technology, with mobile apps, online services, AI-powered assistance, and unified data systems that make accessing government easy, fast, and available 24/7—not a frustrating ordeal requiring hours of wait time and in-person visits.

Louisville's tech sector rivals peer cities, attracting venture capital, retaining talented graduates, creating thousands of high-wage jobs, and establishing Louisville as an innovation hub—not a place tech talent flees.

Core Principles

1. **Universal Access:** High-speed internet is infrastructure as essential as water and electricity—no Louisville resident should be excluded from digital economy.

2. **Equity-Centered Innovation:** Technology investment must prioritize historically excluded communities—tech economy shouldn't replicate patterns where prosperity concentrates in wealthy neighborhoods.

3. **Residents First:** Technology should serve Louisville residents' needs, not Silicon Valley investors—we'll fund solutions to our community challenges, not copycat startups.

4. **Open & Transparent:** City data and technology should be open and accessible to residents—enabling transparency, accountability, and civic innovation.

5. **Workforce Development:** Tech investment must include comprehensive pathways for Louisville residents to access tech careers—not just importing talent from elsewhere.

Four-Year Goals

By the end of my first term:

- **Achieve 95%+ broadband access**, eliminating digital divide
- **Create 2,000+ new tech jobs** at median wage $85,000+ (adding $170M in annual wages)
- **Train 4,000+ Louisville residents** in tech skills from coding to cybersecurity
- **Retain 70% of tech graduates**, ending brain drain
- **Cut city service wait times** so residents get help quicker than before, through digital transformation
- **Bring 80% of city services online**, making government accessible 24/7
- **Attract $200M+ in annual venture capital**, building sustainable innovation ecosystem

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DETAILED POLICY PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 1: Universal Broadband Initiative ($15M annually)

The Problem: Many Louisville households lack broadband internet access—with the gap widest in lower-income neighborhoods—excluding residents from remote work, online education, telehealth, and essential government services. This digital divide perpetuates economic inequality and will only worsen as more of economy moves online.

My Solution:

Launch **Universal Broadband Initiative** to ensure every Louisville household has access to affordable high-speed internet through municipal broadband expansion, digital equity programs, subsidies, and public-private partnerships—eliminating the digital divide within 4 years.

Program Components:

A. Municipal Broadband Expansion ($8M annually)

Build municipal broadband network in underserved neighborhoods where private ISPs won't invest:

- **Fiber Network Construction:** Deploy fiber-optic network in West Louisville, Russell, Portland, Smoketown, South End neighborhoods with the lowest broadband access ($25M capital investment over 3 years, $8M annually in Year 1-3, leveraging $75M

federal broadband grants)

- **Service Area:** Target 45,000 households in underserved neighborhoods
- **Pricing:** $40/month for 100 Mbps symmetrical service —with $10/month reduced rate for households earning <150% federal poverty level
- **Public Ownership:** Network owned by Louisville Metro, operated through partnership/contract—ensuring long-term affordability and community control
- **Wireless Coverage:** Free public Wi-Fi in 50 high-traffic public spaces (libraries, community centers, parks, transit hubs) for those who can't afford home service

Model: Chattanooga's city-owned fiber network is a model for how a municipal network can attract tech businesses and keep prices competitive with private ISPs.

B. Digital Equity Program ($4M annually)

Beyond infrastructure, address barriers to digital adoption:

- **Device Program:** Provide free refurbished laptops/tablets to 5,000 low-income households annually ($1.5M—average $300/device through partnerships with tech companies, universities donating surplus equipment)
- **Digital Literacy Training:** Free classes at libraries, community centers teaching basic computer skills, internet safety, online job applications, telehealth access—serving 8,000 residents annually ($1M)
- **Tech Support:** Establish digital navigator program with 30 community members trained to provide in-home tech support for seniors, immigrants, and others struggling with technology ($900K—$30K/navigator)
- **Affordable Service Partnerships:** Negotiate with private ISPs to offer $15/month low-income internet plans (leveraging federal Affordable Connectivity Program)—connecting 15,000 households annually ($600K in outreach/enrollment support)

C. Broadband for Multifamily Housing ($2M annually)

Address unique barriers in apartment buildings:

- **Building Upgrades:** Grants for apartment building owners to install broadband infrastructure in buildings lacking connectivity ($1.2M annually, 40 buildings serving 2,500 units)
- **Public Housing:** Ensure all Louisville Metro Housing Authority properties have broadband infrastructure and subsidized service ($500K annually)
- **Tenant Protection:** Prohibit landlords from exclusive ISP agreements that limit tenant choice and drive up prices—enforce competition

D. School & Library Connectivity ($1M annually)

Extend broadband beyond school buildings:

- **Homework Hotspots:** Provide mobile hotspots to 2,000 JCPS students annually lacking home internet ($600K)
- **Library Hours Extension:** Fund extended library hours (including evenings/weekends) to provide internet access when working families can use it ($300K)
- **Community Center Wi-Fi:** Ensure all community centers have high-speed Wi-Fi available free to residents ($100K)

Implementation Timeline:
– **Months 1-6:** Apply for federal broadband grants, conduct network design for municipal fiber, begin ISP negotiations for affordable plans
– **Months 7-12:** Award construction contracts, begin fiber deployment in first 3 neighborhoods, launch device program and digital literacy training
– **Year 2:** Municipal fiber operational in 15 neighborhoods serving 15,000 households, 10,000 devices distributed, 16,000 residents trained
– **Year 3:** Fiber expansion to additional 20 neighborhoods serving 30,000 additional households, total 45,000 connected to municipal network
– **Year 4:** 95%+ broadband access achieved citywide, ongoing affordability and digital equity programs

Success Metrics:
– Broadband access rate (Target: 95% by Year 4)
– Access rate in underserved neighborhoods (Target: 90% in West Louisville)
– Municipal fiber households connected (Target: 45,000 by Year 4)
– Devices distributed (Target: 20,000 over 4 years)
– Digital literacy training participants (Target: 32,000 over 4 years)
– Median broadband cost (Target: 25% reduction through municipal competition)

Peer City Examples:
– **Chattanooga, TN:** Its city-owned fiber network is credited with attracting business investment and jobs
– **Wilson, NC:** Municipal broadband in a low-income city has drawn strong local adoption and tech businesses
– **Lafayette, LA:** Municipal fiber has delivered faster speeds at lower prices than private ISPs

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PROPOSAL 2: Louisville Innovation District ($8M annually)

The Problem: Louisville lacks innovation infrastructure (tech incubators, co-working spaces, maker spaces) that supports startup growth and tech ecosystem development. Our single tech incubator is in the East End, excluding West Louisville entrepreneurs. Meanwhile, peer cities

like Nashville and Indianapolis have more incubators and attract far more venture capital than Louisville.

My Solution:

Establish **Louisville Innovation District** anchored in West Louisville with satellite locations citywide—providing tech incubators, co-working spaces, maker spaces, entrepreneurship support, and venture capital access to create 2,000+ tech jobs over 4 years while ensuring innovation economy benefits historically excluded communities.

Program Components:

A. West Louisville Innovation Hub ($3.5M annually)

Create flagship innovation center in West Louisville:

- **Facility:** Convert 60,000+ sq ft warehouse/industrial building in Russell or Portland into innovation hub ($12M capital investment Year 1, leveraging $8M federal economic development funds; $1.5M annual operations)
- **Tech Incubator:** 40,000 sq ft incubator with office space for 50 early-stage tech startups—subsidized rent ($15/sq ft), shared conference rooms, high-speed internet
- **Maker Space:** 10,000 sq ft maker space with 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC machines, electronics lab, woodshop—$10/month membership for Louisville residents
- **Co-Working Space:** 8,000 sq ft co-working space for freelancers, remote workers, early-stage entrepreneurs—$99/month for Louisville residents
- **Community Tech Center:** 2,000 sq ft free computer lab and training space for neighborhood residents

Support Services:
– **Mentorship:** Connect entrepreneurs with successful tech founders, business leaders for guidance
– **Pitch Practice:** Weekly pitch events where entrepreneurs present to potential investors, get feedback
– **Technical Assistance:** Staff business development specialists providing free consulting on business planning, fundraising, product development
– **Legal/Accounting:** Pro bono legal and accounting services through partnerships with law firms, accounting firms

B. Startup Capital Fund ($2M annually)

Address venture capital gap preventing Louisville startups from scaling:

- **Seed Grants:** $25,000-$100,000 equity-free grants for early-stage Louisville startups (30 grants annually)
- **Matching Investment:** $100,000-$500,000 matching investment for startups that

have attracted private VC—city provides $1 for every $2 of private investment (10 startups annually)

- **Revenue-Based Financing:** Alternative to equity investment—startups repay loan as % of revenue until 1.5x principal repaid, then no further obligation (lower-risk for entrepreneurs than giving up equity)
- **Priority:** entrepreneurs who can't raise money from banks or investors, women entrepreneurs, and startups addressing community challenges (not just copycat consumer apps)

C. Satellite Innovation Centers ($1.5M annually)

Expand innovation infrastructure citywide:

- **Neighborhood Maker Spaces:** Establish maker spaces in 4 additional neighborhoods (South End, Smoketown, Shively, Newburg)—2,000 sq ft each with 3D printing, laser cutting, electronics ($300K capital each, $75K annual operations each = $300K annually after Year 1 buildout)
- **University Partnerships:** Co-locate innovation spaces at UofL, Bellarmine, Simmons College connecting students to entrepreneurship ($400K annually supporting 3 locations)
- **Library Innovation Labs:** Equip 6 library branches with maker space equipment and entrepreneurship resources ($100K annually)

D. Tech Entrepreneurship Training ($1M annually)

Train Louisville residents to start tech businesses:

- **Startup Academy:** 12-week intensive program teaching tech entrepreneurship—business model development, customer discovery, product development, fundraising (100 participants annually, $400K)
- **Women in Tech Fellowship:** 6-month program supporting women entrepreneurs building tech startups with training, mentorship, and $15K stipends (30 participants annually, $450K)
- **Youth Entrepreneurship:** Summer tech entrepreneurship program for 200 high school students—learn coding, design thinking, pitch development ($150K)

Implementation Timeline:
– **Months 1-6:** Acquire building for West Louisville Innovation Hub, issue RFP for hub operations, establish Startup Capital Fund governance
– **Months 7-12:** Begin West Louisville hub renovation, launch first Startup Academy cohort, award first $1M in seed grants to 20 startups
– **Year 2:** West Louisville Innovation Hub opens with 30 startups, 200 co-working members, 500 maker space users; first satellite maker spaces open

– **Years 3-4:** Scale to 50 startups in hub, 4 satellite maker spaces operational, $2M annually in startup capital deployed

Success Metrics:
– Startups supported (Target: 200 over 4 years)
– Tech jobs created (Target: 2,000 jobs at median $85K wage)
– Venture capital attracted (Target: $200M over 4 years)
– West Louisville entrepreneurs (Target: 35% of participants from West Louisville zip codes)
– Startup survival rate (Target: 50% still operating after 5 years)

Peer City Examples:
– **Nashville Entrepreneur Center:** Has supported startups and job creation in Nashville's tech community
– **Indianapolis 16 Tech Innovation District:** A public-private innovation district that has drawn tech companies to Indianapolis
– **Greenville, SC NEXT Innovation Center:** Has supported local entrepreneurs—demonstrating innovation infrastructure can create jobs

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PROPOSAL 3: Tech Talent Pipeline ($6M annually)

The Problem: Louisville's tech workforce pipeline has gaps from K-12 through career placement—only some schools offer computer science, too few tech graduates stay in Louisville, and women are dramatically underrepresented in tech. Meanwhile, peer cities invest heavily in tech training and retain graduates at much higher rates.

My Solution:

Create comprehensive **Tech Talent Pipeline** from K-12 computer science education through coding bootcamps, tech apprenticeships, and career placement—training 1,000+ Louisville residents annually for tech careers while prioritizing diversity and local retention.

Program Components:

A. K-12 Computer Science Initiative ($2M annually)

Expand computer science education in JCPS:

- **CS Teacher Training:** Train 100 existing teachers annually in computer science instruction through partnerships with Code.org, UofL College of Education ($600K—includes stipends, curriculum, ongoing support)
- **CS Course Expansion:** Fund computer science courses in 40 additional JCPS schools annually—providing curriculum, equipment, software licenses (target: 100% of schools offering CS by Year 4) ($800K)

- **After-School Coding Clubs:** Support coding clubs in 50 schools serving 1,500 students annually—with focus on middle schools to build interest before high school ($300K)
- **AP Computer Science Exam Fee Waivers:** Cover exam fees for all low-income students taking AP Computer Science ($100K annually, ~500 students)
- **Summer Coding Camps:** Free 2-week coding camps for 500 middle/high school students annually—with slots offered first to students from low-income families and girls ($200K)

Target: Increase JCPS computer science participation to 35% of students by Year 4, with proportional participation by gender and from every part of town.

B. Coding Bootcamp Scholarships ($1.5M annually)

Make coding bootcamps accessible to career changers and low-income residents:

- **Full Scholarships:** Cover $12,000-$16,000 tuition for 100 Louisville residents annually to attend coding bootcamps (UofL Code Louisville, Awesome Inc., Code Kentucky, or other accredited programs)
- **Living Stipends:** Provide $1,500/month stipends during 3-month intensive bootcamps so participants can focus on learning without working second jobs ($450K for 100 participants)
- **Priority:** low-income residents, women, and West Louisville residents
- **Outcome Requirement:** Bootcamps must achieve 75% job placement rate within 6 months at $55K+ salaries to remain eligible for scholarship partnerships

C. Tech Apprenticeship Program ($1.5M annually)

Create earn-while-you-learn pathways into tech careers:

- **Registered Apprenticeships:** Establish Department of Labor-registered apprenticeships in software development, cybersecurity, data analytics, IT support—combining on-the-job training with classroom instruction
- **Employer Partnerships:** Partner with 30 Louisville tech employers and tech departments of major companies (UPS, Humana, YUM!, Brown-Forman) to host apprentices
- **Cohort Size:** 150 apprentices enrolled annually across all programs
- **Wage Progression:** Apprentices start at $18/hour (42K annually), progress to $30/hour ($62,400 annually) by completion of 2-year programs—earning while learning
- **City Wage Subsidy:** City reimburses 50% of apprentice wages Year 1, 25% Year 2 to encourage employer participation ($750K annually)

- **Wraparound Support:** Childcare assistance, transportation support, mentorship for apprentices ($200K)

D. Tech Career Services ($1M annually)

Ensure training leads to job placement and retention:

- **Career Coaching:** One-on-one career coaching for 400 tech training program participants annually—resume review, interview prep, salary negotiation, job search strategy ($300K)
- **Employer Connections:** Host quarterly tech hiring fairs connecting Louisville tech employers with local talent ($100K)
- **Job Placement Incentives:** $2,500 bonuses to employers hiring Louisville tech training graduates at $55K+ wages—incentivizing local hiring over importing talent ($500K, 200 placements annually)
- **Retention Support:** 2-year mentorship and professional development for tech graduates to ensure retention and career advancement ($100K)

Implementation Timeline:
– **Months 1-4:** Train first cohort of 25 CS teachers, establish bootcamp scholarship application process, begin employer outreach for apprenticeships
– **Months 5-8:** CS courses launch in 25 additional schools, first 50 bootcamp scholars enrolled, apprenticeship program designed
– **Months 9-12:** First bootcamp cohort graduates and placed in jobs, first 50 apprentices begin programs, summer coding camps serve 500 students
– **Years 2-4:** Scale to 100 CS teachers trained annually, 100 bootcamp scholars, 150 apprentices, 1,000+ total trained annually

Success Metrics:
– K-12 CS participation (Target: 35% of students by Year 4)
– CS participation diversity (Target: 50% female, with students from every part of town)
– Bootcamp graduates (Target: 400 over 4 years)
– Tech apprentices (Target: 600 over 4 years)
– Job placement rate (Target: 80% placed in tech jobs within 6 months)
– Starting wages (Target: $60K median starting wage)
– Retention rate (Target: 75% still in tech careers after 3 years)

Peer City Examples:
– **Nashville Software School:** A coding bootcamp that places graduates in tech jobs—a city partnership provides scholarships for residents
– **Indianapolis tech apprenticeship program:** Combines paid work with training for apprentices entering tech careers
– **Austin CodeUp:** A free coding bootcamp that has graduated hundreds of developers

PROPOSAL 4: Digital Government Transformation ($7M annually)

The Problem: Louisville Metro's technology infrastructure is behind peer cities, forcing residents to endure long waits, in-person visits for services that should be online, and paper-based processes. This costs residents time, costs the city productivity, and makes government inaccessible—particularly to working families who can't take time off to visit government offices during business hours.

My Solution:

Launch **Digital Government Transformation** to modernize city technology infrastructure with mobile apps, online services, digital permitting, AI-powered assistance, and unified data systems—so residents get answers quicker than before and government is accessible 24/7.

Program Components:

A. Louisville Mobile App & Online Services Portal ($2.5M Year 1, $1M ongoing)

Create unified digital platform for all city services:

- **Mobile App:** Develop Louisville Metro mobile app (iOS/Android) allowing residents to:
- Pay bills (property tax, water, parking tickets)
- Request services (potholes, streetlight repairs, code enforcement)
- Apply for permits (building, zoning, business licenses)
- Schedule appointments (inspections, meetings with city staff)
- Track service requests in real-time
- Receive notifications about city services, emergencies, events
- **Web Portal:** Companion website with same functionality for desktop users
- **Language Access:** App/portal available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Somali, Vietnamese—Louisville's 5 most common languages
- **Accessibility:** Full WCAG 2.1 AA compliance for residents with disabilities
- **Payment Options:** Accept credit/debit cards, ACH, mobile wallets—ending requirement to mail checks or visit in person

Development: Partner with proven civic tech platform (like OpenGov, SeeClickFix, or Civitech) for $1.5M initial development, $500K customization, $1M annual licensing/updates.

B. Digital Permitting System ($2M Year 1, $800K ongoing)

Modernize permitting to enable online applications and fast processing:

- **Online Applications:** Allow all permits (building, electrical, plumbing, zoning, business licenses, special events) to be applied for online with document upload
- **Automated Review:** Use AI to automatically review standard permits for code compliance—flagging issues for human review, auto-approving compliant applications
- **Real-Time Status:** Applicants can track permit status in real time, receive notifications when ready for pickup or approved
- **Digital Inspections:** Inspectors use tablets with digital forms, photos, GPS—data automatically integrated into permitting system
- **E-Signature:** Allow applicants to sign documents electronically, eliminating need for in-person signatures

Impact: Reduce permitting time to under 5 days for standard permits—attracting business investment and residential construction.

C. AI-Powered Virtual Assistant ($1.5M Year 1, $500K ongoing)

Deploy AI assistant to answer common questions and route complex inquiries:

- **Chatbot:** AI-powered chatbot on city website and in mobile app answering common questions 24/7—”When is trash pickup?”, “How do I pay a parking ticket?”, “What permits do I need for home renovation?”
- **Voice Assistant:** Phone-based AI assistant for residents calling 311—handles simple requests (schedule bulk item pickup, report pothole) and routes complex issues to human staff
- **Multilingual:** Supports English, Spanish, and 3 additional languages
- **Learning System:** AI learns from interactions, continuously improving accuracy

Impact: Handle 60-70% of routine inquiries via AI, freeing human staff for complex cases—so residents get answers quicker than before.

D. Unified Data Platform ($2M Year 1, $500K ongoing)

Integrate Louisville Metro’s separate databases into unified system:

- **Data Integration:** Connect permitting, 311, finance, public works, police, fire, health into single data warehouse—eliminating manual re-entry and errors
- **Resident Portal:** Residents have single account showing all interactions with city—permits, service requests, bills, violations, appointments
- **Analytics:** City leaders can analyze data across departments to identify trends,

improve services, allocate resources

- **API Access:** Provide API access for civic tech developers to build applications using city data

E. Cybersecurity Upgrades ($1M annually)

Protect city systems and resident data from cyber threats:

- **Security Audit:** Comprehensive penetration testing and vulnerability assessment ($200K Year 1)
- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** Replace outdated systems with security vulnerabilities ($400K annually)
- **Monitoring:** 24/7 security monitoring and incident response ($200K annually)
- **Training:** Cybersecurity training for all city employees ($100K annually)
- **Incident Response Plan:** Detailed plan for responding to ransomware, data breaches, etc. ($100K Year 1)

Implementation Timeline:
– **Months 1-3:** Issue RFPs for mobile app, permitting system, AI assistant, data platform
– **Months 4-9:** Development begins, conduct user testing with residents, cybersecurity audit
– **Months 10-12:** Soft launch of mobile app and permitting system with 20% of services, AI assistant pilot
– **Year 2:** Mobile app expanded to 60% of services, digital permitting fully operational, AI handling 50% of routine inquiries
– **Year 3:** 80% of services available online/via app, unified data platform operational
– **Year 4:** Full digital transformation complete, 24/7 access to all city services

Success Metrics:
– Services available online (Target: 80% by Year 4)
– Mobile app downloads (Target: 150,000—25% of adult residents)
– Average wait time for city services (Target: quicker than before, reported publicly)
– Permits processed digitally (Target: 95% by Year 4)
– Resident satisfaction with digital services (Target: 80% satisfied)
– Time to process standard permits (Target: <5 days)
– Cost savings from automation (Target: $8M annually by Year 4 from productivity gains)

Peer City Examples:
– **Indianapolis:** A mobile app lets residents request city services and has helped residents reach city services faster
– **Austin:** Digital permitting has sped up permit approvals
– **Seattle:** An AI-powered virtual assistant answers routine inquiries

PROPOSAL 5: Civic Technology & Open Data ($2M annually)

The Problem: City data is trapped in silos, inaccessible to residents who could use it to solve community problems. Meanwhile, peer cities have vibrant civic tech communities building apps and tools that make government more transparent, efficient, and responsive—but Louisville lacks infrastructure to support civic innovation.

My Solution:

Launch **Civic Technology & Open Data Program** that releases all non-sensitive city data publicly, supports civic tech projects addressing community challenges, and funds technology solutions developed by and for Louisville residents—democratizing innovation.

Program Components:

A. Open Data Portal ($500K Year 1, $200K ongoing)

Make all city data publicly accessible:

- **Data Portal:** Expand Louisville's open data portal (data.louisvilleky.gov) to publish all non-sensitive city data—budgets, permits, crime stats, 311 requests, traffic data, health data, etc.
- **Data Standards:** Adopt open data standards ensuring data is machine-readable and usable by developers
- **API Access:** Provide APIs allowing developers to access real-time city data programmatically
- **Data Governance:** Establish open data policy requiring all departments to publish data quarterly, with privacy protections
- **Public Dashboard:** Create public dashboards visualizing key city metrics—crime trends, pothole response times, budget spending, etc.

B. Civic Tech Grants ($800K annually)

Fund technology projects addressing Louisville challenges:

- **Micro-Grants:** $5,000-$25,000 grants for civic hackers, nonprofits, and community groups building tech solutions to Louisville problems (30 grants annually)
- **Example Projects:**
- Transit app showing real-time TARC arrivals
- Tool helping residents find affordable housing
- Platform connecting residents to social services

- App helping small businesses navigate city permitting
- Neighborhood air quality monitoring network
- **Open Source Requirement:** All funded projects must release code as open source so other cities can benefit
- **Community-Led:** Priority to projects led by Louisville residents solving problems they personally experience

C. Civic Tech Fellowship ($400K annually)

Recruit tech talent to work on government challenges:

- **Code for Louisville Fellowship:** 10 technologists annually spend 12 months embedded in city departments building technology solutions—paid $60,000 stipend + benefits ($400K total)
- **Projects:** Fellows work on high-priority challenges identified by city departments and community—digital equity, data integration, service delivery improvements
- **Talent Pipeline:** Fellowship serves as recruitment pipeline for permanent city tech positions
- **Knowledge Transfer:** Fellows train city staff on modern technology practices

D. Civic Hackathons & Community Engagement ($300K annually)

Build civic tech community and engage residents in innovation:

- **Quarterly Hackathons:** 4 weekend hackathons annually bringing together developers, designers, community members to build solutions to Louisville challenges (100 participants each, $100K)
- **Neighborhood Tech Workshops:** 20 workshops annually in neighborhoods teaching residents how to use open data, build simple civic tools ($100K)
- **Annual Civic Tech Summit:** Conference bringing together 500 civic technologists, government officials, community leaders to share innovations ($100K)

Implementation Timeline:
– **Months 1-6:** Expand Louisville’s open data portal (data.louisvilleky.gov), adding the first 50 datasets, issue first civic tech grant RFP, recruit first fellowship cohort
– **Months 7-12:** Award first $400K in civic tech grants, fellows begin work, first 2 hackathons held
– **Years 2-4:** Expand open data to 300+ datasets, fund 120 civic tech projects, 40 fellows complete programs

Success Metrics:
– Open datasets published (Target: 300+ by Year 4)
– Open data portal usage (Target: 50,000 unique users annually)

– Civic tech projects funded (Target: 120 over 4 years)
– Civic tech projects still operating (Target: 60% still operating after 3 years)
– Hackathon participants (Target: 2,000 over 4 years)
– Apps/tools built using city data (Target: 80+ over 4 years)

Peer City Examples:
– **Chicago:** Its open data portal supports civic apps including crime mapping, transit tracking, and food inspection tools
– **New York City:** Civic tech grants have funded projects including a 311 mobile app, a school finder tool, and an election polling place locator
– **Oakland:** A civic tech fellowship has placed technologists in city departments

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BUDGET SUMMARY

Total Annual Investment: $38 Million

Program	Annual Cost	Funding Source
Universal Broadband Initiative	$15M	Federal broadband grants ($12M), General Fund ($3M)
Louisville Innovation District	$8M	Revenue bonds ($3M), General Fund ($2M), Corporate/Philanthropy ($3M)
Tech Talent Pipeline	$6M	General Fund ($4M), Federal workforce grants ($2M)
Digital Government Transformation	$7M	Revenue bonds ($4M), General Fund ($2M), Efficiency savings ($1M)
Civic Technology & Open Data	$2M	General Fund ($2M)

Funding Sources Detail

Federal Broadband Grants ($12M annually):

Leverage federal broadband funding programs:

- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA):** the $42.45 billion BEAD program nationally for broadband expansion (NTIA, Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program)
- **NTIA grants:** Various National Telecommunications and Information Administration programs for digital equity
- **Conservative Estimate:** $12M annually available through federal sources for Louisville broadband projects

Federal Workforce Grants ($2M annually):

Department of Labor grants for tech workforce training:

- **WIOA funds:** Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds for career training
- **Apprenticeship grants:** Federal support for registered apprenticeships
- **NSF grants:** National Science Foundation grants for K-12 STEM education

Revenue Bonds ($7M annually):

Issue revenue bonds for digital infrastructure investment:

- **Digital Government Infrastructure:** $4M annually for government IT modernization
- **Innovation District Capital:** $3M annually for facility development
- **Repayment:** Bonds repaid from efficiency savings ($3M annually from digital government productivity gains) and economic development revenue (taxes from new tech businesses)
- **20-year bonds:** Total $140M in infrastructure investment repaid over 20 years

General Fund Allocation ($13M annually):

New General Fund spending:

- **Universal Broadband:** $3M (supplementing $12M federal funds)
- **Innovation District:** $2M (operations and startup capital)
- **Tech Talent Pipeline:** $4M (supplementing $2M federal workforce funds)
- **Digital Government:** $2M (supplementing $4M revenue bonds, $1M efficiency savings)
- **Civic Tech & Open Data:** $2M

Increase: From current minimal tech investment to $13M—still modest compared to tech investment payoff.

Corporate & Philanthropic Partnerships ($3M annually):

Leverage private sector support:

- **Corporate Innovation Partnerships:** Major Louisville employers (UPS, Humana, YUM!, Brown-Forman) invest in innovation district as talent pipeline—$2M annually
- **Foundation Grants:** National and local foundations supporting digital equity, innovation, entrepreneurship—$1M annually

Efficiency Savings ($1M annually):

Digital government generates savings that offset costs:

- **Year 1:** $2M in savings from automation and productivity gains
- **Year 2:** $4M in savings
- **Year 3:** $6M in savings
- **Year 4:** $8M in savings
- **Conservative:** Budget only $1M in Year 1, though actual savings will be much higher

Budget Impact on Louisville Metro

Total New Investment: $38M annually represents 3.4% of Louisville Metro's $1.13 billion operating budget.

Combined spending across policies is not added up page by page any more: each policy's Metro share is placed once, in the reallocation ledger behind the Executive Budget Summary, which spends exactly the adopted $1,125,931,500.

Revenue Generation & Economic Returns:

This policy generates substantial economic returns through multiple channels:

Direct Economic Impact:
– **Tech Job Creation:** 2,000 jobs × $85K median wage = $170M in annual wages

Tax Revenue Generated:
– **Income Tax:** $170M in tech wages × 1.45% (the Metro and TARC shares of the occupational tax, which every worker pays; Louisville Metro Revenue Commission, Form OL-3D instructions, 2025) = $2.5M
– **Property Tax:** Tech sector growth increases commercial property values—estimated $3-5M in additional property tax
– **Business Taxes:** New tech businesses generate $2-4M in annual business license and net profits taxes
– **Total Tax Revenue:** $7.5-11.5M annually

Efficiency Gains:
– **Digital Government Savings:** $8M annually by Year 4 from productivity gains, reduced manual processes

Net Fiscal Impact: Costs $38M in direct spending; projected tax revenue and efficiency savings of $15.5-19.5M a year offset part of that cost.

Distribution by Focus Area

Focus Area	Annual Investment	% of Total
Broadband Access	$15M	39%

Focus Area	Annual Investment	% of Total
Innovation Infrastructure	$8M	21%
Digital Government	$7M	18%
Tech Workforce	$6M	16%
Civic Tech & Open Data	$2M	5%

Equity Allocation

60% of funding ($23M) prioritizes historically underserved communities:

- Universal Broadband: 100% focused on closing digital divide affecting primarily low-income communities ($15M)
- Innovation District: Innovation District: anchored in West Louisville, with startup money spread by need across the neighborhoods it serves
- Tech Talent Pipeline: Tech Talent Pipeline: training seats and scholarships offered first to low-income residents, women, and West Louisville residents
- Digital Government: Benefits all residents equally, particularly those currently excluded from government access ($0 equity-specific)
- Civic Tech: 50% of grants to projects led by residents of underserved communities ($1M of $2M)

This ensures technology investment corrects historic inequities rather than creating new digital divides.

FOUR-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Year 1: Foundation & Early Wins

Months 1-3: Planning & Partnerships
– Apply for $30M in federal broadband infrastructure grants
– Issue RFPs for mobile app, digital permitting system, AI virtual assistant
– Acquire building for West Louisville Innovation Hub
– Establish Startup Capital Fund and civic tech grant program
– Train first cohort of 25 CS teachers

Months 4-6: Program Launches
– Award mobile app and permitting system contracts, begin development
– Begin West Louisville Innovation Hub renovation
– Launch first coding bootcamp scholarship cohort (50 participants)
– Award first $1M in startup seed grants to 20 Louisville startups

– Expand Louisville's open data portal (data.louisvilleky.gov), adding the first 50 datasets

Months 7-9: Implementation Accelerates
– Begin municipal broadband fiber deployment in 3 neighborhoods
– Mobile app soft launch with 20% of city services
– Launch device distribution program (1,000 laptops to low-income households)
– First 25 tech apprentices begin earn-while-you-learn programs
– First civic hackathon (100 participants)

Months 10-12: First Results
– Municipal fiber operational in first neighborhood (5,000 households)
– Digital permitting system launches for building permits
– AI virtual assistant pilot on 311 line (handling 40% of calls)
– West Louisville Innovation Hub 50% construction complete
– First coding bootcamp cohort graduates, 80% placed in tech jobs

Year 1 Outcomes:
– 5,000 households connected to municipal broadband
– 2,000 devices distributed to low-income residents
– 1,500 residents trained in digital literacy
– Mobile app handling 25,000 transactions/month
– 20 startups funded with $1M in seed capital
– 75 residents enrolled in tech training (bootcamps, apprenticeships)
– Average 311 wait time shorter than before

Year 2: Scaling & Momentum

Broadband:
– Municipal fiber expands to 10 additional neighborhoods (20,000 households total)
– 5,000 more devices distributed
– Digital navigator program launches with 30 navigators providing in-home tech support
– Broadband access rate increases to 85%

Innovation:
– West Louisville Innovation Hub opens with 30 startups, 150 co-working members, 300 maker space users
– First satellite maker space opens in South End
– $2M in startup capital deployed to 30 startups
– First 10 startups receive matching venture capital investment

Tech Workforce:
– 100 residents in coding bootcamp scholarships
– 75 apprentices in tech apprenticeship programs (total 100 enrolled over 2 years)
– Computer science courses expand to 60 JCPS schools (from 35 baseline + 25 Year 1)
– 1,200 students participate in summer coding camps

Digital Government:
– 60% of city services available via mobile app
– Digital permitting operational for all permit types
– AI virtual assistant handling 60% of routine 311 inquiries
– Average wait time reduced to 8 minutes

Year 2 Metrics:
– 20,000 households with municipal broadband
– 250 tech training participants (bootcamps, apprenticeships)
– 60 startups funded since program launch
– 400 jobs created in tech sector
– Mobile app 80,000 downloads
– Permit processing time reduced to 10 days

Year 3: Maturity & Expansion

Broadband:
– Municipal fiber reaches 35,000 households total
– Broadband access rate reaches 92% citywide
– 15,000 total devices distributed
– Free public Wi-Fi in 50 high-traffic locations

Innovation:
– West Louisville Innovation Hub supports 40 startups
– 4 satellite maker spaces operational citywide
– Cumulative $5M in startup capital deployed
– Annual VC attraction reaches $120M

Tech Workforce:
– 100 bootcamp scholars and 150 apprentices annually (total 850 trained over 3 years)
– CS courses in 85 JCPS schools (90% coverage)
– CS participation reaches 25% of students
– Tech graduate retention increases to 60%

Digital Government:
– 75% of services available online/via app
– Mobile app 120,000 downloads (20% of adult residents)
– Unified data platform operational connecting all 47 databases
– Average wait time reduced to 6 minutes
– Cybersecurity infrastructure fully upgraded

Year 3 Metrics:
– 35,000 households with municipal broadband (92% access rate)
– 850 residents trained in tech skills
– 500 new tech jobs created (cumulative 900)

– 90 startups funded
– $120M in annual VC attraction
– City saves $5M annually from digital efficiency

Year 4: Goals Achieved & Sustainability

Broadband:
– Municipal fiber reaches 45,000 households
– 95%+ broadband access achieved citywide
– Digital divide eliminated for all practical purposes
– 20,000 total devices distributed over 4 years

Innovation:
– West Louisville Innovation Hub supports 50 startups
– 5 satellite locations citywide
– Cumulative $8M in startup capital deployed to 120 startups
– Annual VC attraction reaches $200M
– Louisville recognized regionally as emerging tech hub

Tech Workforce:
– 100 bootcamp scholars and 150 apprentices annually (total 1,000/year trained)
– 100% of JCPS schools offering computer science
– CS participation reaches 35% of students with proportional diversity
– Tech graduate retention reaches 70% (ending brain drain)
– 4,000 total residents trained over 4 years

Digital Government:
– 80% of services available online/via app
– Mobile app 150,000 downloads (25% of adult population)
– Average wait time for city services shorter than before
– Permit processing under 5 days
– City saves $8M annually from automation and productivity gains

Metrics Achieved:
– **Broadband Access:** 95%+
– **Tech Jobs Created:** 2,000+ (at median $85K wage)
– **Tech Graduates Retained:** 70%
– **VC Attraction:** $200M annually
– **Residents Trained:** 4,000 over 4 years
– **City Service Wait Time:** quicker than before
– **Online Services:** 80%

Long-Term Sustainability (Years 5-10)

Self-Sustaining Systems:

1. **Municipal Broadband:** Generates $18-25M annually in revenue (45,000 households × $40/month average), covering $8M annual operating costs plus bond debt service—becomes revenue-positive asset for city

2. **Innovation District:** Successful startups exit/scale, creating venture capital returns that replenish startup fund—becomes self-sustaining ecosystem with private investment replacing public seed funding

3. **Digital Government:** $8M+ annual efficiency savings fund ongoing technology upgrades without additional appropriations—system pays for itself

4. **Tech Workforce Pipeline:** As tech sector grows to 5%+ of economy, employers fund increased share of training through apprenticeship wage subsidies and tuition assistance—public investment catalyzes private investment

Economic Transformation:

- **Tech Sector Growth:** Louisville tech employment reaches 5% of workforce—creating thousands of net new jobs
- **Startup Ecosystem:** 300+ startups created over 10 years, 120 still operating, several achieving major exits and generating venture returns
- **Broadband Economy:** Universal broadband enables 8,000+ remote workers, 2,000+ home-based businesses generating $180M+ in economic activity
- **Government Efficiency:** Digital transformation generates $100M+ in cumulative savings over 10 years, allowing reinvestment in community priorities
- **Louisville Brand:** City recognized nationally as emerging tech hub, attracting talent and investment—reversing decades of brain drain

By Year 10:
– Louisville tech sector matches peer city levels (5% of workforce)
– Digital divide permanently eliminated through universal broadband infrastructure
– City government operates on cutting-edge technology delivering world-class service
– Innovation ecosystem self-sustaining with robust private venture capital and thriving startup community
– Louisville competes with Nashville, Indianapolis, Austin for tech talent and investment—no longer falling behind

SUCCESS METRICS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Dave's Technology & Innovation policy will be evaluated on measurable outcomes showing technology serves everyone—not just the already connected. Quarterly public reports will track progress toward these goals:

Digital Access & Equity Metrics

Baseline → Year 4 Target:
– **Broadband access rate:** Target: 95%+ of households
– **West Louisville broadband access:** Target: 90%
– **Median broadband cost:** Target: 25% lower through municipal competition
– **Devices distributed:** 0 → 20,000 laptops/tablets to low-income households
– **Digital literacy trained:** 0 → 32,000 residents over 4 years

Data Collection: Annual household broadband survey, census data analysis, ISP reporting, device distribution tracking

Technology Economy Metrics

Baseline → Year 4 Target:
– **Tech sector employment:** Target: adding 2,000 net new tech jobs
– **Median tech wage:** Target: keeping pace with inflation while maintaining a premium over the median wage
– **Tech graduate retention:** Target: 70% (5-year retention)
– **Annual venture capital:** Target: $200M+
– **Tech startups:** Target: 120 net new active startups
– **Tech sector wages:** adding $170M+ in annual wages (2,000 jobs × $85K median wage)

Data Collection: Bureau of Labor Statistics data, Pitchbook VC tracking, startup ecosystem surveys, graduate tracking studies

Innovation Infrastructure Metrics

Baseline → Year 4 Target:
– **Tech incubators:** Target: 6 (West Louisville hub + 5 satellites)
– **Startups supported:** Target: 200+ over 4 years
– **Startup capital deployed:** private-only Target: $8M public over 4 years + $25M+ private leveraged
– **Maker space users:** Target: 3,000/year
– **Co-working members:** Target: 800+
– **Startup survival rate:** Target: 50%+ (5-year)

Data Collection: Innovation district usage tracking, startup outcome surveys, VC database analysis

Tech Workforce Development Metrics

Baseline → Year 4 Target:
– **K-12 CS participation:** Target: 35%
– **JCPS schools offering CS:** Target: 100%
– **Tech training participants:** Target: 1,000/year (bootcamps, apprenticeships, etc.)
– **Tech training job placement:** Varies → 80% placed within 6 months at $55K+
– **Women in tech workforce:** Target: 40%

Data Collection: JCPS course enrollment data, training program tracking, employment outcome surveys, demographic workforce analysis

Digital Government Metrics

Baseline → Year 4 Target:
– **Services available online:** Target: 80%
– **Mobile app downloads:** target 150,000 (25% of adult residents)
– **Average wait time for city services:** measured in Year 1 → quicker than before
– **Permit processing time:** Target: <5 days
– **Resident satisfaction with city services:** Target: 75%+
– **Annual efficiency savings:** $0 → $8M by Year 4

Data Collection: Service delivery tracking, mobile app analytics, resident satisfaction surveys, time-motion studies, budget analysis

Civic Technology Metrics

Baseline → Year 4 Target:
– **Open datasets published:** ~20 → 300+
– **Open data portal users:** grow to 50,000 annually
– **Civic tech projects funded:** 0 → 120 over 4 years
– **Civic apps/tools built:** ~5 → 80+ using city data
– **Hackathon participants:** ~100/year → 500/year
– **Civic tech fellows:** 0 → 40 over 4 years

Data Collection: Open data portal analytics, grant tracking, civic tech project surveys, hackathon registration

Economic Impact Metrics

Return on Investment:
– **City investment:** $38M annually
– **Tax revenue generated:** $7.5-11.5M annually
– **Efficiency savings:** $8M annually by Year 4
– **Net fiscal impact:** Costs $38M annually; projected tax revenue and efficiency savings of

$15.5-19.5M a year offset part of that cost

Job Creation:
– **Direct tech jobs:** 2,000 jobs at $85K median = $170M wages
– **Indirect jobs:** Estimated 1,500 additional jobs supporting tech sector = $75M wages
– **Total job creation:** 3,500 jobs, $245M in annual wages

Data Collection: Economic impact studies, fiscal analysis, employment data

Equity & Inclusion Metrics

Baseline → Year 4 Target:
– **West Louisville participation in innovation programs:** Target: 35%
– **Women tech entrepreneurs funded:** Target: 40%

Data Collection: Demographic tracking of all program participants, wage analysis by gender and by where they're from (part of town, part of Kentucky, or part of the world), geographic participation tracking

Accountability Mechanisms

Public Dashboard:
All metrics published quarterly at tech.louisvilleky.gov/dashboard with:
– Progress toward Year 4 targets (red/yellow/green indicators)
– Spending by program and neighborhood
– Demographic breakdown of participants and beneficiaries
– Economic impact data
– Stories from residents, entrepreneurs, startups served

Independent Evaluation:
– **Year 2 Evaluation:** Independent assessment of digital divide progress, innovation ecosystem development, workforce training outcomes
– **Year 4 Comprehensive Evaluation:** Full program evaluation by university researchers measuring all metrics and recommending adjustments

Community Oversight:
– **Tech Advisory Board:** 15-member board (majority from underserved communities, including tech workers, entrepreneurs, community advocates) with input on major investments
– **Quarterly Community Forums:** Public forums in council districts reviewing progress, gathering input
– **Annual Mayor's Tech Report:** Mayor presents comprehensive progress report to Metro Council and public

Performance-Based Budgeting:
– Continued funding contingent on meeting equity targets and economic impact goals
– Programs failing to achieve 75% of targets subject to redesign or elimination

– High-performing programs receive increased funding to scale

Specific Accountability Commitments:

1. **If broadband access doesn't reach 90% by Year 3**, Mayor must present corrective action plan to Council explaining barriers and proposed solutions

2. **If tech training isn't reaching the low-income residents and neighborhoods that need it most by Year 2**, program redesign required with community input on barriers

3. **If digital government doesn't reduce wait times below 15 minutes by Year 2**, CIO position replaced with leader who can deliver results

4. **If innovation district doesn't support 30+ West Louisville entrepreneurs by Year 2**, relocate satellite incubator to West Louisville to increase access

I commit to ruthless accountability on technology equity. We won't accept a digital transformation that serves only wealthy, well-connected residents—every resident will benefit from technology investment, or we'll change approach until they do.

RELATED GLOSSARY TERMS

This policy connects to the following terms in my Louisville Voter Education Glossary (available at rundaverun.org/glossary):

- **Digital Divide:** Gap between those with/without access to high-speed internet and digital devices—many Louisville households lack broadband
- **Broadband:** High-speed internet that meets the FCC's minimum speed standard—essential for remote work, education, telehealth
- **Municipal Broadband:** City-owned internet infrastructure providing service directly to residents—typically cheaper and faster than private ISPs
- **Tech Sector:** Industries including software development, IT services, cybersecurity, data analytics—fastest-growing, highest-wage employment category
- **Venture Capital (VC):** Investment funding for early-stage companies with high growth potential—Louisville receives far less than peer cities such as Nashville
- **Tech Incubator:** Facility providing office space, mentorship, and support services for early-stage startups

- **Coding Bootcamp:** Intensive 3-6 month training program teaching software development skills—alternative to 4-year degree
- **Registered Apprenticeship:** Department of Labor-certified earn-while-you-learn program combining on-the-job training with classroom instruction
- **Digital Literacy:** Skills needed to use computers and internet effectively—from basic navigation to online safety
- **Open Data:** Government data made publicly available in machine-readable formats—enables transparency and civic innovation
- **Civic Technology (Civic Tech):** Technology developed to improve government services and civic engagement—like apps for reporting potholes or finding polling places
- **API (Application Programming Interface):** System allowing different software applications to communicate—enables developers to build apps using city data
- **Cloud Computing:** Delivering IT services (storage, computing, software) over the internet rather than on local servers—more efficient and secure
- **Cybersecurity:** Protecting computer systems and data from theft, damage, or unauthorized access—critical for government
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Computer systems that can perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence—like answering questions or analyzing data
- **Economic Development Accountability:** Requiring businesses receiving public incentives to meet community benefit standards (see Economic Development & Jobs (Policy 08))
- **Living Wage:** the Kentucky Homeownership Wage Index: the hourly wage at which a full-time worker can carry a mortgage on the median Kentucky home (see Kentucky Homeownership Wage Index)—tech jobs typically pay well above living wage

For definitions and additional context, visit rundaverun.org/glossary.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why should taxpayers fund free internet when private companies already provide it?

Answer: Because many Louisville households can’t afford private internet, excluding them from jobs, education, healthcare, and government services. Internet is infrastructure as essential as roads or water—no one should be locked out of the digital economy.

The market has failed:
– Private ISPs won’t invest in low-income neighborhoods (not profitable enough)

– Prices tend to be higher in places without municipal competition
– West Louisville still lags on broadband access—after decades of “market solutions”

Municipal broadband works:
– **Chattanooga:** Its municipal fiber network is credited with attracting business investment
– **Wilson, NC:** City-owned broadband in a low-income community has drawn strong adoption and new jobs
– **Lafayette, LA:** Residents have saved money compared with private ISPs

Return on investment: Municipal broadband can support remote work, business growth, and property values. This isn’t charity—it’s economic development.

Plus: Municipal broadband can generate income for the city while lowering prices for residents.

2. Louisville isn’t Austin or San Francisco—why try to compete in technology when we should focus on our strengths like manufacturing and logistics?

Answer: Technology isn’t replacing Louisville’s traditional strengths—it’s enhancing them. Modern manufacturing IS technology (automation, robotics, AI). Logistics IS technology (UPS, one of Louisville’s largest employers, is a tech company as much as logistics). Every industry now depends on technology.

The data:
– Many manufacturing jobs now require digital skills
– Logistics/supply chain management increasingly driven by AI, data analytics, automation
– Healthcare (another Louisville strength) depends on health IT, telemedicine, data analytics

We’re not choosing tech INSTEAD of traditional sectors—we’re ensuring Louisville workers have skills for modern versions of those sectors.

Plus: Tech sector has highest wage premiums and fastest growth:
– Tech jobs typically pay more than the median wage
– Tech jobs have grown faster nationally than jobs overall
– Tech skills increasingly required for middle-class jobs across ALL industries

If Louisville doesn’t invest in tech economy, we’ll fall further behind peer cities like Nashville and Indianapolis that ARE investing—losing young talent and high-wage jobs to cities making technology a priority.

3. Won’t municipal broadband compete unfairly with private internet providers and hurt local businesses?

Answer: Municipal broadband creates competition that HELPS consumers and businesses

through lower prices and better service—while typically serving neighborhoods private ISPs have abandoned.

Fair competition:

1. **Municipal broadband targets underserved areas** where private ISPs won't invest (not profitable)—we're filling gaps, not competing in well-served markets

2. **Private ISPs can compete on service, features, bundles**—they just can't charge monopoly prices anymore

3. **When municipal broadband enters market, private ISPs lower prices and improve service**—benefiting even customers who don't switch to municipal option

Evidence from peer cities:
– **Chattanooga:** After municipal fiber launched, Comcast cut prices and increased speeds to compete—private ISP customers benefited even without switching
– **Lafayette, LA:** Private ISP prices dropped after the municipal broadband launch
– **Wilson, NC:** Time Warner expanded service to previously ignored rural areas after city launched municipal network

Result: Municipal broadband creates competitive market benefiting all consumers—vs. current situation where private ISPs have monopoly power to charge high prices for mediocre service.

Plus: Private ISPs receive billions in public subsidies and use public rights-of-way for their networks—they're already benefiting from taxpayer support. Municipal broadband just levels the playing field.

4. How do we know tech training programs will actually lead to jobs, not just leave people with skills they can't use?

Answer: My policy includes job placement requirements, employer partnerships, and earn-while-you-learn apprenticeships that guarantee employment—not just training for training's sake.

Job placement accountability:

1. **Placement Rate Requirement:** Training programs must achieve 75%+ job placement within 6 months at $55K+ wages or lose city funding—ensures programs accountable for outcomes

2. **Employer Partnerships:** All apprenticeships and 60% of bootcamp slots tied to specific employer commitments to hire graduates

3. **Apprenticeships:** 150 apprentices annually EARN while learning ($18-30/hour)—they're already employed, just receiving training

4. **Job Placement Incentives:** $2,500 bonuses to employers hiring Louisville tech training graduates—creating hiring pipeline

Peer city results prove this works:
– **Nashville Software School:** A coding bootcamp that places graduates in tech jobs
– **Indianapolis tech apprenticeships:** Apprentices complete the program and move into tech jobs
– **Austin CodeUp:** A free coding bootcamp that places graduates in jobs

Plus: Louisville employers are still hiring for tech roles. We're not training people for jobs that don't exist, we're helping fill employer need for qualified local talent.

5. What prevents the Innovation District from just becoming another way for wealthy entrepreneurs to get public funding, while entrepreneurs from the neighborhoods with the least remain excluded?

Answer: Explicit equity requirements with teeth—not just aspirational goals.

Hard accountability mechanisms:

1. **Funding by Need:** Startup capital goes to the entrepreneurs who can't raise money from banks or investors, wherever they live in Louisville, and no group holds a reserved share

2. **Geographic Requirements:** West Louisville location for flagship hub eliminates transportation/access barriers that exclude West Louisville entrepreneurs from East End incubator

3. **Community Governance:** West Louisville residents hold majority seats on Innovation District governance board with approval authority over investments—outside funders can't override community

4. **Outcome Tracking:** If Year 2 evaluation shows that startup money isn't reaching the

entrepreneurs and neighborhoods that need it most, Mayor must present corrective plan to Council—consequences for missing equity targets

5. **No Equity Requirements for Seed Grants:** $25K-100K grants are equity-free—entrepreneurs keep 100% ownership (unlike typical VC that demands equity), ensuring entrepreneurs without family wealth aren't giving up ownership to access capital

We're designing this program explicitly to counter historic patterns of exclusion—not replicate them with public funds.

6. City government has a terrible track record with technology projects that run over budget and don't work—why will this be different?

Answer: Fair point—many government IT projects fail. My approach differs in several critical ways:

Different Approach:

1. **Proven Platforms, Not Custom Development:** We'll use proven civic tech platforms (like OpenGov, SeeClickFix) already used by many cities—not building everything custom from scratch (where most projects fail)

2. **Agile Development:** Iterative development with resident user testing, not "big bang" launches—launch with 20% of services, test, improve, expand

3. **Private Sector Expertise:** Hire experienced Chief Innovation Officer and Chief Technology Officer from cities that have done this successfully—not relying on staff with no digital transformation experience

4. **Clear Metrics & Accountability:** Specific measurable goals (shorter wait times, 80% services online) with quarterly public reporting—if we're not hitting targets, change approach

5. **Resident-Centered Design:** Technology designed WITH residents through user testing, not FOR residents by people who've never used city services

Risk Mitigation:

– Fixed-price contracts, not open-ended cost-plus
– Phased implementation with kill switches if not performing
– Independent evaluation at Year 2—if not working, we pivot

Peer cities have done this:
– **Indianapolis:** Digital transformation of resident services
– **Austin:** Digital permitting
– **Boston:** A 311 app for service requests

It CAN be done right—but requires different approach than Louisville has taken historically. I am committed to modern best practices, not repeating past failures.

7. Won't AI and automation take jobs away from city workers? Why invest in technology that eliminates employment?

Answer: Technology will eliminate TASKS (like manual data entry), not jobs—freeing city workers to do higher-value work serving residents better.

Reality of city work:
– City employees currently spend time on manual tasks that should be automated—data re-entry, paper processing, repetitive questions
– That's not fulfilling work—it's drudgery keeping workers from actually helping residents
– Automation frees workers to solve complex resident problems, not just push paper

No Layoffs Commitment:
I commit NO city workers will be laid off due to digital transformation. Instead:

1. **Redeploy to High-Value Work:** Workers freed from manual tasks redeploy to resident-facing services, complex problem-solving, community engagement

2. **Natural Attrition:** Any efficiency gains handled through natural attrition (retirements, departures)—not layoffs

3. **Upskilling:** City invests in training current workers in digital skills so they can advance to higher-paying positions

Example:
– **Before AI Assistant:** 311 operator spends much of the day answering "When is trash pickup?" and "How do I pay parking ticket?"—repetitive questions taking time from complex resident issues
– **After AI Assistant:** AI handles routine questions 24/7, operator focuses on complex cases requiring human judgment, problem-solving—more fulfilling work, better resident service

Plus: Digital transformation can improve worker satisfaction because workers do meaningful work instead of soul-crushing data entry.

8. How will you ensure city data is secure and resident privacy is protected with all this digitization and open data?

Answer: Security and privacy are core to digital transformation—not afterthoughts.

Cybersecurity Investment:
– $1M annually for security infrastructure, monitoring, incident response
– Comprehensive penetration testing before any system launches
– 24/7 security monitoring for threats
– Regular security training for all city employees
– Incident response plan for ransomware, breaches

Privacy Protections:
– Open data releases only NON-SENSITIVE data—no personal information, no data that could identify individuals
– Data governance board reviews all data releases for privacy implications
– Compliance with all federal/state privacy laws (HIPAA for health data, FERPA for education data, etc.)
– Transparency about what data city collects and how it’s used

Examples of Open Data (OK) vs. Private Data (NOT Released):
– **OK:** Aggregated crime statistics by neighborhood
– **NOT OK:** Individual arrest records with names, addresses
– **OK:** Number of permits issued by type
– **NOT OK:** Permit applications with property owner information
– **OK:** 311 request response times by category
– **NOT OK:** 311 calls with caller identification

Peer cities run open data programs with privacy protections:
– **NYC:** Publishes open data while protecting personal information
– **Chicago:** Has a privacy framework preventing individual identification
– **Seattle:** Open data program with privacy protections

If anything, digitization IMPROVES security vs. current state:
– Paper records easily lost, stolen, no audit trail
– Disconnected databases more vulnerable than unified secure system
– Digital systems have encryption, access controls, monitoring that paper can’t provide

9. What happens to people who don’t have smartphones or computers and can’t use digital services no matter how good they

are?

Answer: Digital transformation EXPANDS options—it doesn't eliminate traditional in-person and phone service.

Multi-Channel Service:
– **Digital:** Mobile app, website for those who prefer it (available 24/7)
– **Phone:** Enhanced 311 service with AI handling routine questions, human staff for complex issues (quicker than before)
– **In-Person:** Metro offices remain open for residents who need face-to-face service
– **Community Centers:** Computer access and in-person assistance at libraries, community centers

Digital Navigator Program:
30 community members trained to provide in-home tech support for seniors, immigrants, people with disabilities who need help accessing digital services—NO ONE left behind.

Device Access:
20,000 free laptops/tablets distributed to low-income households over 4 years—if lack of device is barrier, we provide device.

The goal is UNIVERSAL ACCESS through whatever channel works for each resident—not forcing everyone onto digital platform.

Plus: Digital services particularly benefit those who CAN'T easily access in-person service:
– Working parents who can't take time off to visit Metro offices during business hours
– People with disabilities who face transportation barriers
– Residents without cars in neighborhoods poorly served by transit
– People working multiple jobs with no time for long phone waits

Digital transformation makes government MORE accessible for most residents—while maintaining traditional channels for those who need them.

10. This seems like a lot of money ($38M)—can Louisville afford this when we have so many other pressing needs?

Answer: Louisville can't afford NOT to invest in technology—the cost of falling further behind is far higher than $38M.

Cost of Doing Nothing:

Falling behind has costs for Louisville:
– **Wasted staff time** on manual processes that should be automated
– **Delayed economic activity** from slow permitting
– **Lost wages and tax revenue** when tech graduates and tech businesses leave for cities

with better tech ecosystems

Return on Investment:

$38M investment is projected to generate:
– **$7.5-11.5M** in direct tax revenue
– **$8M** in city efficiency savings by Year 4
– **$245M** in new annual wages from tech job creation

Comparison to Other Investments:

$38M is about 3.4% of Louisville Metro's $1.13 billion operating budget—modest for transformational impact.

Plus: Much of investment ($15M) comes from federal broadband grants, not city funds—we'd be leaving money on the table by not pursuing it.

Bottom line: This is one of highest-ROI investments city can make. The question isn't "can we afford it?"—it's "can we afford to keep falling behind?"

CONCLUSION: TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PEOPLE

For too long, Louisville has approached technology as a luxury for those who can afford it—not essential infrastructure for everyone. Meanwhile, many households remain locked out of the digital economy, our tech graduates flee to cities investing in innovation, city government operates on technology from 2010, and we fall further behind peer cities building 21st-century economies.

Dave's Technology & Innovation policy rejects this trajectory.

It recognizes that:

- High-speed internet is as essential as water and electricity—no one should be excluded
- Technology creates pathways to prosperity—IF we invest in training and ensure access
- Innovation happens everywhere when given infrastructure and support—not just in wealthy neighborhoods
- Modern government technology is a right, not a privilege—residents deserve efficient service
- Louisville can compete in the innovation economy—IF we make strategic investments peer cities already made

The choice is clear:

Continue Louisville's current path—many households without internet, losing tech graduates to other cities, long waits for city services, falling further behind Nashville and Indianapolis in tech economy—and miss out on the fastest-growing, highest-wage sector.

Or invest $38M annually to close the digital divide, create 2,000+ tech jobs, modernize government, build innovation ecosystem, and transform Louisville into a competitive tech hub where innovation serves everyone.

This is about more than apps and websites. It's about economic survival in a digital economy. It's about whether Louisville residents can access remote work opportunities, online education, telehealth, and government services. It's about whether our graduates stay or leave. It's about whether we fall further behind or catch up to peer cities.

My vision: A Louisville where every household has high-speed internet, every resident has pathways to tech careers paying $80,000+, innovation happens in West Louisville and every neighborhood, city government operates on cutting-edge technology serving residents efficiently, and our tech sector rivals Nashville and Indianapolis.

A digital Louisville that works for everyone.

That's democracy that works for everyone. That's the Louisville we'll build together.

For more information:
– **Full policy details:** rundaverun.org/policy/technology-innovation
– **Voter education glossary:** rundaverun.org/glossary
– **Get involved:** rundaverun.org/get-involved/
– **Contact campaign:** dave@rundaverun.org

Dave Biggers for Louisville Mayor
Democracy that works for everyone.

This policy document is part of my comprehensive policy platform addressing Louisville's most pressing challenges through evidence-based solutions and community-driven governance. See also: Public Safety (Policy 01), Criminal Justice Reform (Policy 02), Health & Human Services (Policy 03), Budget & Financial Management (Policy 04), Affordable Housing (Policy 05), Education & Youth Development (Policy 06), Environmental Justice (Policy 07), Economic Development & Jobs (Policy 08), Infrastructure & Transportation (Policy 09), Arts, Culture & Tourism (Policy 10), and forthcoming policies on Public Health & Wellness, Neighborhood

Development, Senior Services, Disability Rights & Accessibility, and Food Systems & Urban Agriculture.

RELATED POLICIES

This policy works in coordination with these related initiatives:

- **Economic Development & Jobs:** Technology sector creates the highest-wage jobs and drives 21st-century economic competitiveness.
- **Education & Youth Development:** Universal broadband eliminates the digital divide excluding students from online education and homework completion.
- **Budget & Financial Management:** Digital government transformation enables real-time budget transparency and efficient public service delivery.
- **Public Safety & Community Policing:** Technology infrastructure supports data-driven community policing and public accountability systems.
- **Disability Rights & Accessibility:** Digital accessibility and assistive technology enable full participation for people with disabilities.

Explore all 16 comprehensive policies at My Complete Policy Platform.

What This Means for YOUR Neighborhood

Every Louisville neighborhood is unique. Enter your ZIP code to see how this policy directly impacts your community:

Find Your Mini Substation

Enter your ZIP code to see when your neighborhood will receive a community police substation.

Find My Substation

63 mini substations across Louisville, at least one in every ZIP code, phased in over 4 years.

Part of my comprehensive public safety plan.

See the Budget Impact

Explore how this policy fits into my comprehensive $1.13 billion budget plan:

How Does My Budget Affect You?

See your personalized impact - zero tax increase, real benefits

Household Income $50,000 50000
Children in JCPS 0 0
Your ZIP Code

Your Personal Impact

How we calculate: Benefits based on average family savings from wellness center access ($800/year), youth program value (after-school + summer jobs), and your specific mini substation timeline. All benefits come from the same $1.13B budget - zero tax increase.

Share your results with friends and family:

Share My Results

⚖ Compare This Policy

See how my approach differs from current administration policies:

⚖ My Plan, Category by Category

Pick a category to see what my plan does, how it is paid for, and when it arrives.

 Share This Plan Print This Plan
 Public Safety Wellness Youth Economy Housing Transparency

Public Safety & Policing

My Plan

Community-based mini substations

Approach

- 63 mini substations across Louisville (4-year deployment)
- Officers living and working in communities they serve
- Preventative community policing model
- Year 1: 12 substations in highest-need areas

Timeline Year 1-4 phased rollout
Budget Same $1.13 billion; no new taxes; priorities re-pointed inside the adopted budget
Impact Projected response times: 3-5 minutes (campaign estimate)

Mental Health & Wellness

My Plan

Wellness centers placed by health need

Approach

- I will place 18 Community Wellness Centers by health need (CDC PLACES 2024 plus Census poverty data)
- Mental health counseling, addiction support
- Youth programs, family services
- At least one center in every LMPD division

Timeline 6 centers a year over Years 1-3

Budget $45M a year when fully built (18 centers at $2.5M each), inside the adopted budget
Impact Accessible care within every neighborhood, preventative focus

Youth Development

My Plan

Comprehensive youth investment

Approach

- After-school programs at all substations
- Job training and mentorship
- Arts, sports, and STEM programs
- Youth advisory councils
- Summer employment pathways

Timeline Immediate implementation with substation rollout
Budget $32.5M for youth programs, inside the adopted budget
Impact Accessible programs in every neighborhood

Economic Development

My Plan

Community wealth building

Approach

- Small business incubators at substations
- Local hiring requirements for city contracts
- Neighborhood-based economic zones
- Affordable housing protection
- Living wage standards

Timeline Immediate policy changes, 4-year infrastructure build
Budget Same $1.13 billion; no new taxes; priorities re-pointed inside the adopted budget
Impact Jobs and wealth stay in neighborhoods

Housing & Affordability

My Plan

Housing as a human right

Approach

- Expanded affordable housing trust fund
- Strong tenant protections
- Community land trusts
- Rent stabilization measures
- Anti-displacement policies for existing residents

Timeline Immediate policy changes
Budget Same $1.13 billion; no new taxes; priorities re-pointed inside the adopted budget
Impact Protects residents, prevents displacement
□

Government Transparency

My Plan

Radical transparency

Approach

- Real-time budget dashboard
- Public data portal for all city metrics
- Community advisory boards with veto power
- Open contracting process
- Regular town halls in all neighborhoods

Timeline Immediate implementation
Budget Low-cost digital infrastructure
Impact Citizens empowered with information and decision-making power

The Choice is Clear

Louisville deserves transformative change, not more of the same. Join us in building a city that works for everyone.

Join the Campaign Read Full Policy Platform

Share This Policy

Help spread the word about my vision for Louisville:

Related Policies You Might Like

How to Vote for Me

I am a write-in candidate: in the race for Mayor, mark the write-in spot and write **DAVE BIGGERS** (the last name, Biggers, is required).

Early voting, no excuse needed: October 29–31 · Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 6 AM to 6 PM. Registration for the November 3 election closed October 5.

✓ Check My Registration and Polling Place View All Election Dates →

Stay Updated on This Policy

Get notified when this policy is updated or when I speak about this issue in YOUR neighborhood.

* indicates a required field

Email Signup Information
Fax Number (Leave blank)

Name *
Email * We'll send you updates about the campaign
Zip Code 5-digit zip code (optional)
☐ I'm interested in volunteering! We'll send you information about volunteer opportunities
Sign Up

We use your details only to reach you about the campaign. Privacy Policy

Have Ideas to Improve This Policy?

This is YOUR city. If you have suggestions for how we can make this policy better for Louisville, please share them. Every idea is reviewed.

Suggest an Improvement for Louisville

Have an idea for improving Louisville? Share your policy suggestion below. Your voice matters in shaping our city's future.

Policy Title *
Description *
0/2000 characters
Category Select a category...
Your Name *
Your Email *
ZIP Code (Optional)
☐ I agree that my suggestion may be reviewed and potentially incorporated into campaign policy. My email will only be used to notify me about the status of my suggestion.
Submit Suggestion

NOT ME, WE.

Together, we make Louisville better for everyone.