



Willie Wilson Economic Development Plan

The vibrancy of a city is its people. The people must have opportunity. We must make our city safer. We must make our transit authority safe and reliable. We cannot experience the full essence of economic development if our neighborhoods are not safe. Also, our residents must be prepared and properly trained for the jobs.

My number one priority is to make our city safe. Businesses will come to safe neighborhoods. As a businessman, I will attract businesses to locate in Chicago. I will use every available tool to attract businesses to Chicago. Also, I will grow small businesses using the largess of government. If the Chicago Bears leave, I will bring in another NFL Team.

I will do the following:

1. Utilize city resources to secure vacant lots and buildings. I will turn that land into Industrial Zones for commercial activity. The industrial zone will consist of businesses like manufacturing, tech jobs and others. I will ensure that our residents are job ready when those jobs materialize.
2. The West and South are food deserts and lack manufacturing. I will bring back manufacturing and ensure that grocery stores, banks, and restaurants follow.
3. I will strengthen our public education system. Each student graduating will be required to have a trade. Our young people will be job ready.
4. I will utilize Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Opportunity Zones to spur economic development in disadvantaged and distressed areas.
5. I will work with our federal, state and county partners on economic development. I will maximize federal and state grant opportunities.
6. I will prioritize lead pipe replacement in homes. This is a major jobs program.
7. I will create a citywide youth jobs program targeted toward communities with the highest levels of gun violence, poverty, and unemployment.

A city cannot survive by constantly raising taxes on its citizens. Our city lost more than 45,000 residents from July 2020 -July 2021, third most of any city in America. When you raise taxes, it drives people to shop in suburban Cook County, Indiana, and other places. I will not raise taxes on our citizens.

I will do the following:

1. Roll back yearly property tax increases.
2. Roll back bag tax.
3. Create a Task Force to advise on ways to cut bureaucratic red tape and stream-line city services.