

Joe Hubbard's Plan for Progress:

**Three priorities over four years
to move Montgomery forward**

**COOPERATION
COORDINATION
COMMON SENSE**

**★★★★ JOE
HUBBARD
STATE REPRESENTATIVE #73**

hubbardforhouse.com

Jobs:

In this economy, we've got to get back to basics with our plan to grow business and put people back to work.

We've got to remember that "small businesses are the foundation of our city's economy, and we must nurture them."

We will work with our Mayor, City Council, and County Commission to find new ways to bring quality, sustainable jobs to Montgomery. But we must also support and nurture the small businesses that are an integral part of the local economy.

My jobs plan will grow Montgomery's local economy and will put people back to work with quality, sustainable jobs.

1. Job creation:

With investment and infrastructure, downtown Montgomery has become an attractive destination for businesses and citizens, alike.

"Business and industry follow investment, and if we invest in our community, jobs will follow."

Working with our city and county governments, our State government can position Montgomery to capitalize on Alabama's fastest growing industries: manufacturing, tourism, and healthcare. But, we must first invest in Montgomery's infrastructure and public services to create a local economic environment where businesses will grow and thrive.

2. Re-employment:

Our biggest challenge in this community is to put people back to work who have lost their jobs in these difficult economic times. In January of 2010, Montgomery's unemployment rate was 11.3%, and, today, it remains higher than the national unemployment rate.

We must, not only, create new jobs, we must create tax incentives for new and existing businesses to hire unemployed workers.

"Businesses and workers, alike, will benefit from a tax system that rewards the hiring of qualified employees off the unemployment rolls."

3. Invest in small business:

In this economy, our small businesses are suffering as business capital dwindles and loans dry up. These small businesses are the back-bone of our local economy, and we must find new ways to support and sustain our small businesses.

We should create a venture capital fund to help small businesses start up and stay up. The fund would allocate business capital in the form of loans to small businesses where an initial investment is made. Other States have been successful with such funds, and

"with targeted and temporary investment, we can bolster our small business economy."

Education:

Over the past few years we have seen that, when we have invested in education, we received a substantial return. We must review our education budget to find where our dollars will be most effective and spend them there.

“Every dollar we spend on education should go to ensuring that our children get excellence in the classroom.”

If we all take ownership of Montgomery’s school system, we will all see the benefits, both in a well-educated and highly trained workforce, and in property values that reflect a top tier school system.

My education plan will ensure that our tax dollars are spent with one goal in mind: to give our children get excellence in the classroom.

1. Excellent teachers:

Next to parents, teachers are the most influential people in a child’s life. Teaching our children cannot be a ‘fall-back career.’

“We must work to retain and support our excellent teachers, while recruiting the excellent teachers of tomorrow.”

My program, Teach for Alabama, will offer scholarships to students in our state universities so they can become the educators of tomorrow, in exchange for a commitment to teach in Alabama schools. Keeping our best and brightest here at home to teach the next generation is greatest gift we can give our children.

2. Excellent schools:

“Our schools need to be modeled on innovative schools that produce excellent students.”

Here, in Montgomery, our county Magnet schools consistently graduate some of the top students in Montgomery, and one of our Magnet schools is ranked in the top 25 schools in the country.

We need a state-wide Magnet school program that will help all our communities offer the innovation and flexibility we offer have in our magnet schools here in Montgomery. Such a program would help us raise the quality of all the schools in Alabama and this community.

3. Tools for excellence:

If we want to see returns on our investments in education, we must give our children the tools for success in the classroom. Excellent teachers and excellent schools are important, but

“our children must also have tools in place to ensure that they are prepared for school and are always reaching their highest potential.”

A state-wide Pre-K program is critical to ensuring that our children have the best possible foundation for their education, and we must continue to support effective programs like the Alabama Reading Initiative and the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative that will build on that foundation. Finally, if we track student performance, we can show teachers where our children need more attention, and we will help our teachers better understand what teaching methods work best.

Ethics:

It seems like every day, we see another politician involved in a corruption scandal. Now more than ever, we need to restore accountability and transparency in our State government to earn back the public trust.

The people of this community deserve to know where their representative stands on the issues that affect them, just as they deserve to know which special interests are trying to influence that position and how.

“We must disclose all business that is conducted in the Statehouse, especially what goes on behind closed doors.”

My plan for ethics reform will raise the blinds and open the doors to our State government and hold public officials accountable to the people that elected them.

1. Strengthen ethics laws:

Alabama’s Ethics Commission is the only state in the country that has an ethics commission that lacks the power to subpoena documents. Alabama’s ethics laws are among the weakest in the nation, so it’s no wonder that public corruption is on the rise.

“Our State Ethics Commission should be given the authority to investigate and stop corruption before a grand jury gets involved.”

The only way we are going to put an end to corruption in our Statehouse is to shed light on the political process by strengthening and enforcing the ethics laws we have.

2. Disclose all expenditures:

The general public has no idea how much money is spent on influencing political decisions. Our current laws require only the disclosure of expenditures in excess of \$250 a day. Under those guidelines, a lobbyist could spend as much as \$90,885 a year without having to report a dime!

“We must shed light on all expenditures used to influence political decisions in our Statehouse, no matter how big or small.”

Lobbyists and special interests should be required to annually report any and all expenditures they make on an elected official.

3. Ban PAC-to-PAC transfers:

For far too long, politicians have been able to hide the sources of their campaign funds by transferring money from one political action committee to another to another.

“Our laws, today, essentially authorize laundering political money in a PAC-to-PAC shell game.”

We must have a law that bans the practice of transferring political money between PACs. No public official should accept a campaign contribution that he would be ashamed to reveal to the people he represents. We can achieve accountability only with transparency.

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I was born and raised in Montgomery, and I'm the seventh generation of my family to raise a family here.

Montgomery's best days are ahead. We need a strong local economy built on dependable jobs that our families can count on. We must also provide a quality education for our children, and give them a reason to stay here when they grow up.



“We have a lot of work to do in the next four years to make Montgomery a place our children can come home to.”