

The background of the entire page is a dark blue topographic map. The map features white contour lines that define the terrain's elevation, with some lines being dashed to indicate specific features or boundaries. The overall aesthetic is clean and professional, with a focus on the central text.

KELLY

FOR MAYOR

**A Better Way Forward: Tim Kelly's Plan for the
Black Community | Vision 2021**



CHATTANOOGA, TN

A Better Way Forward: Tim Kelly's Plan for the Black Community | Vision 2021

KELLY
FOR MAYOR

FIVE CORE PRINCIPLES

Unfortunately, there are still two Chattanoogas today. Tim Kelly is running for mayor to bridge that divide. This plan is a framework for mitigating racism and promoting equality for Black people in Chattanooga. The challenges facing Black Chattanoogaans are complex, the legacy of centuries of structural racism, and so will require intentional and persistent solutions. As a city, we must invest in Black communities and work to merge our city into One Chattanooga.

01 ACKNOWLEDGING INEQUALITY: Race-neutral solutions will not resolve structural racism.

02 BLACK UPWARD MOBILITY: Promote economic mobility to close income gaps and grow Black wealth in Chattanooga.

03 RESPECT: Take an intentional approach at every level of government to treat all citizens with the respect they deserve, with solutions sourced from people, not politicians.

04 CULTIVATING OPPORTUNITIES: Provide meaningful opportunities for early childhood education, job training, and entrepreneurship to cultivate a healthy Black middle class.

05 TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT: Promote two-way communication in every neighborhood, listening to (and not patronizing) the concerns of all.

I. KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

01 BLACK HOME OWNERSHIP

Our city has a documented history of Black families not receiving home loans.

- The city must encourage and facilitate homeownership.
- Chattanooga will work with financial institutions and local foundations to creatively conquer credit access issues.
- The city will discourage absentee and “slum” landlords from speculating in properties.
- Chattanooga must minimize displacement by connecting homeowners to resources that assist with improving and maintaining aging residences.

02 BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES

The [2019 City of Chattanooga Disparity Study](#) revealed the extent to which Black-owned businesses are underutilized in procurement processes.

- The study's recommendations will be used to develop accountability measures and implement a comprehensive Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program for City contracting opportunities.
- The City will establish a small business and entrepreneur resource center to help founders and entrepreneurs start and grow companies by navigating red tape and roadblocks that prevent business launches.

03 CULTURE

To bridge the gap between the two Chattanoogaes, minority communities must have a sense of belonging. The city must protect and support our neighborhood culture in several ways:

- With the art we display.
- With the entertainment we attract.
- In the obtainability of opportunities.
- We must begin building the foundation for a better Chattanooga today.

I. KEY AREAS OF FOCUS (CONT.)

04 EDUCATION

Everyone deserves access to quality education, and the City of Chattanooga will work toward making this a reality for all of our children.

- Immediately begin expanding Head Start programs.
- Work with nonprofits to increase the number of seats available for quality and affordable early childhood education.
- Partner with Hamilton County Schools to increase access to Future Ready Institutes and pursue other initiatives to expand educational support
- Provide financial support for underserved students within the City limits.

05 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Historically, Black communities have been a dumping ground for industries.

- Many of our vulnerable communities are still haunted by the mistakes of the past, where toxic soil was used as the foundation for homes.
- We must work with community partners to identify funding and methodologies to address environmental damage, including working with State and Federal authorities to prioritize clean-ups in these areas.
- Prevention is better than the cure, and the city will take the lead as an environmental steward to prevent such environmental degradation from happening in the future.

06 HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The COVID-19 pandemic has shined a light on the disparities that have impacted Black communities for generations.

- The City will establish a Policy Director for Community Health to ensure that health and wellness remains a top priority.
- We must work together as a community to combat food insecurity and ensure that all Chattanoogaans have access to healthy and affordable food options.
- Black women are often underrepresented in datasets but have some of the worst health outcomes. Through alliances with churches, nonprofits, and health organizations, we will promote outreach to close the healthcare disparities amongst Black women.

I. KEY AREAS OF FOCUS (CONT.)

07 INCOME INEQUALITY

Income inequality remains a problem in Chattanooga and shows no signs of improvement.

- During the pandemic, lower-income workers have been disproportionately affected by economic disruption, losing their jobs in many cases. Many are now in danger of losing their homes.
- Chattanooga's income growth pace is significantly slower compared to cities such as Atlanta, Nashville, and Knoxville. In fact, it is outpaced by the rate of income growth compared to the country. This is unacceptable.
- The racial gap in household earnings in Hamilton County remains 30 percent greater than in the country as a whole, with the typical white household in Chattanooga earning twice as much as the average Black

household. We will use every tool at our disposal to help close this gap.

08 JOB TRAINING

As economies evolve and industries change, we must look for opportunities to better prepare our workforce. The city will:

- Work with labor unions to support more apprenticeship opportunities.
- Help trade schools to expand outreach into Black communities.
- Work with private industries to connect those looking for career opportunities.
- Create a one-stop-shop within the city for those seeking to upgrade skills.
- Expand access to Entrepreneurial resources to show educate and train those wishing to start small businesses

09 MOBILITY

For Chattanooga to truly be an inclusive city, all citizens—regardless of race or socioeconomic background—must have the freedom to access all corners of our city.

- Chattanooga will create a plan to eliminate fares for main CARTA bus routes and provide free transportation to city residents by 2022, by increasing non-fare revenue, which will rise with increased ridership.
- The city will provide additional demand-driven transportation options for getting to work, accessing health care, or simply getting to a park.

I. KEY AREAS OF FOCUS (CONT.)

10 REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY

Police officers are too often tasked with responsibilities beyond the scope of public safety.

- Moving forward, Chattanooga will work towards reshaping the priorities of our police department.
- Police will focus on protecting our communities and working alongside those who call it home, instead of meeting quotas that result in unnecessary fines and violations.
- Quotas disproportionately affect our minority communities and contribute to the perpetuating cycle of poverty that has plagued too many of our neighborhoods.
- By decriminalizing certain nonviolent offenses, Chattanooga will ensure that the city's police force works with all community members to keep

them safe instead of working against them.

11 RETENTION

Chattanooga loses far too much of its Black talent to cities like Nashville and Atlanta.

- As a city, we need to increase our commitment to innovative solutions that will attract and retain Black talent.
- Programs like the Styles Hutchins Fellowship have been successful and must be carried on.
- To bridge the gap between the city's two Chattanooga's, we must commit to building up our Black middle class.
- The city must maintain and expand support for cultural resources, programs, and establishments where Black Chattanooga feels welcome and valued.

KELLY

FOR MAYOR

Tim Kelly for Mayor

info@kellyforcha.com

423.883.2277

P.O. Box 21753 Chattanooga, TN 37424

