



The Road to Prosperity

Fast, Forward,
Together.

Platform 2026



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The United States Virgin Islands

stands at a profound crossroads. For too long, our territory has been held back by a fragile infrastructure, an unstable energy grid, an underfunded education system, and a government bureaucracy that reacts to crises rather than preventing them.



**The Donastorg-Nelson vision
is built on a clear guiding principle:**

Fast, Forward, Together.

We cannot afford incremental tweaks to a broken framework; we must execute bold, systemic overhauls. True economic and social resilience requires leveraging federal programs effectively, investing heavily in structural modernization, protecting our environment, and restoring basic reliability in daily life on St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, and Water Island.

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Education: Rebuilding the Foundation

The current state of our public schools—marked by aging facilities, severe teacher shortages, and standard administrative roadblocks—is unacceptable. Our administration will treat education as the economic development tool it truly is.





Fast-Tracking Modern School Construction:

Utilizing the billions in obligated FEMA disaster recovery funding, we will aggressively expedite the construction of state-of-the-art, climate-resilient schools. We will eliminate the bureaucratic logjams that have delayed the construction of these modern facilities for years, ensuring our children learn in safe, technologically advanced environments.



Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Competitive Compensation:

We cannot expect excellence if we do not value our educators. We will restructure the Department of Education's budget to offer truly competitive salaries, clear professional ladders, and housing incentives for local and recruited teachers.



Expansion of Vocational and Technical Training (CTE):

Not every student's path leads to a traditional four-year degree. We will heavily invest in Career and Technical Education (CTE) starting in middle school. Partnering with local industries, marine businesses, and federal apprenticeship initiatives, we will train our youth for high-paying, certified careers right here at home.



Strengthening the UVI Partnership:

We will expand integration with the University of the Virgin Islands, specifically tailoring dual-enrollment programs and expanding the Master of Public Administration (MPA) pipeline to train the next generation of local government administrators and city managers.

Infrastructure, Labor, and Health: Building a Resilient Territory

A thriving economy requires functional healthcare, modern roads, and a robust workforce. Our approach centers on total structural renewal.



Health and Hospitals

The territory's healthcare system has suffered from years of structural neglect, forcing residents to seek specialized care off-island.

✓ **Completion of Both Medical Centers:**

Our highest priority will be the full reconstruction and modern equipping of the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital on St. Croix and the Schneider Regional Medical Center on St. Thomas.

✓ **Fostering Medical Tourism:**

We will position the USVI as a premier Caribbean destination for specialized medical tourism. By partnering with top-tier healthcare organizations and providing tax incentives for advanced medical clinics, we can diversify our economy while drastically improving the standard of care for locals.

Infrastructure and Public Works

✓ **Comprehensive Road and Drainage Overhaul:**

Instead of temporary patch-jobs that wash away in the first heavy rain, we will implement long-term civil engineering solutions. This includes prioritizing the completion of major underground duct banks (such as the Queen Mary Highway project) to protect utilities while rebuilding our roads with proper drainage systems.

✓ **Accelerating FEMA Obligated Projects:**

With billions in federal disaster mitigation funds available, we will strengthen project execution by appointing dedicated, accountable project managers to ensure these funds are deployed before they expire.

Labor and Business Growth

✓ **Maximizing Federal Small Business Contracting:**

We will actively empower local small businesses to secure prime contracts on massive infrastructure projects. By aggressively advocating for local participation in federal set-aside opportunities, such as the SBA 8(a) Business Development program, we will ensure that federal dollars remain within the Virgin Islands' economy.

✓ **Streamlining Business Licensing:**

The current process for opening and maintaining a business is bogged down by delays. We will transition the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs (DLCA) to a fully digitized, transparent system that efficiently processes standard business and professional security licenses.

Public Safety:

A Smart, Comprehensive Strategy

True public safety requires a balance of modernized law enforcement, structural accountability, and community-based prevention.





Modernizing Code Enforcement and Security Licensing:

Strict certification requirements for private security agencies and investigators through clear, professional coordination with the Virgin Islands Police Department (VIPD). This ensures private-public coordination in securing commercial and residential zones.



Competitive Pay and Recruitment for First Responders:

We will address police, fire, and EMS shortages by raising base salaries, upgrading tactical equipment, and providing continuous training in modern de-escalation and community policing techniques.



Root-Cause Community Intervention:

Crime is a systemic issue. We will fund robust after-school programs, mental health interventions, and youth sports leagues (such as basketball, tennis, and cricket) to keep our youth engaged, mentored, and anchored in positive development.

Our approach to the **Water and Power Authority (WAPA)** treats the financial stabilization of the utility and the economic security of its workers as two sides of the same coin. We reject the false choice between lower rates for consumers and fair pay for workers. By implementing aggressive structural changes to clean up WAPA's balance sheet, we will make the utility completely whole and financially stable. This fiscal health will allow us to protect and elevate our most valuable resource—our human resource—by legally and financially guaranteeing a **2% salary increase every two (2) years** across all respective union contract agreements.

Here is how we will achieve this standard of stability:

Affordable and Reliable Energy: Resolving the WAPA Issue

The ongoing operational and financial crisis within the Water and Power Authority (WAPA) is the single greatest threat to the USVI's economic survival. With inflation spiking drastically—driven heavily by a staggering increase in utility and housing costs—resolving this issue is an absolute emergency.



We must move past the era of managing the gap by deferring maintenance and losing money on every barrel of oil.



Federal Debt Elimination via Prudent Replacement:

We will aggressively lobby and coordinate with the federal government to maximize the impact of FEMA's Prudent Replacement Program. By securing federal grants to completely cover the costs of replacing failing, outdated infrastructure with modern, climate-resilient systems, we can prevent WAPA from taking on new, high-interest commercial debt.



Operational Efficiency and Fuel Cost Reduction:

By fast-tracking the transition to large-scale solar farms, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), and localized island micro-grids (like the St. John Micro-grid Project), we will drastically slash fuel consumption costs. The massive savings generated from burning less expensive oil will be directly reinvested into the utility's operational reserves.



A Complete Forensic Financial Audit:

We will mandate a comprehensive, transparent audit of WAPA's accounts to eliminate waste, fraudulent billing practices, and administrative bloat. This ensures that every dollar entering the utility is spent on grid stability, customer service, and workforce retention.



Securing and Valuing Our Human Resources

"A power plant is only as reliable as the linemen, engineers, operators, and administrative staff who maintain it."

For too long, WAPA employees have been expected to perform hazardous, essential work during crises while their compensation remains stagnant under expired or underfunded agreements. The Donastorg-Nelson administration will establish a statutory firewall within WAPA's budget dedicated exclusively to workforce stabilization.



Implementing the 2% Collective Bargaining Guarantee:

Once the utility's financial health is restored through fuel savings and federal debt mitigation, those realized savings will be structurally locked in to support the workforce.



Binding Contractual Guarantees:

We will formalize and honor a mandatory 2% salary increase every two (2) years across all existing and respective union contract agreements representing WAPA personnel.



Funding the Raises via Structural Savings:

This raise schedule will not be funded by raising consumer utility rates or increasing the territory's debt. Instead, it will be directly sustained by the lower operational costs achieved through our green energy transition and the elimination of expensive emergency fuel purchases.



Preventing Workforce Attrition:

Offering a reliable, predictable cost-of-living adjustment ensures the USVI can retain its highly trained local technicians, line workers, and engineers. Keeping our local experts home prevents the incredibly expensive practice of flying in off-island emergency contractors whenever the grid encounters a routine mechanical or electrical fault.

By making the utility whole, transparent, and operationally efficient, we secure the financial freedom to treat our workforce with the dignity they deserve.

Agricultural Growth and Food Resilience

To secure the territory's economic future, we must treat local food production as a vital pillar of economic development. While the U.S. Virgin Islands currently relies on imports for roughly 97% of its food supply, targeted strategic investments can turn this vulnerability into a thriving agricultural economy.

By aligning government efforts, academic expertise, and federal funding, we can build a modern, high-yield food system across St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John.



Critical Areas for Growth & Improvement

To achieve sustainable agricultural growth, we must address longstanding systemic gaps:



Water Infrastructure & Resilience:

Frequent drought conditions and limited access to public water grids remain major barriers for growers. Progress requires expanding large-scale rainwater catchment, cistern networks, solar pumping technology, and efficient drip irrigation.



Processing & Cold-Chain Logistics:

Farmers lack adequate post-harvest infrastructure. Upgrading certified slaughterhouses, cold storage facilities, and packing houses will prevent crop spoilage and open access to commercial distribution channels.



Grant Management & Technical Capacity:

Streamlining access to federal and local grant funding—while providing hands-on assistance with grant administration—will ensure small operations receive the capital they need to grow.



Arable Land Utilization & Security:

Maximizing production requires clear, long-term land lease policies for territorial agricultural property, alongside investments in soil restoration and land preparation equipment.

Key Local Frameworks & Initiatives

Progress is driven by public-private partnerships and territorial leadership:

- ✓ **Virgin Islands Agricultural Plan (VI Ag Plan):**
Guided by the Local Food and Farm Council (LFFC), this plan serves as the territory's strategic roadmap to expand food production, create jobs, and achieve food sovereignty.
- ✓ **VI Department of Agriculture (VIDA):**
Delivers direct operational support, including heavy equipment rentals, subsidized agricultural land leases, and community-wide tree crop distribution initiatives.
- ✓ **UVI Cooperative Extension & Business Center (VI-ABC):**
A joint initiative of the University of the Virgin Islands and the VI Small Business Development Center (VI SBDC), providing technical training, business development, and agronomic research tailored to tropical island ecosystems.
- ✓ **USVI Economic Development Authority (USVIEDA):**
Connects commercial farm enterprises and ag-tech startups to business tax incentives, low-interest revolving loans, and economic diversification funding.

Federal Support Networks & Funding Streams

Federal agencies provide crucial funding and risk mitigation tools to scale local operations:

Federal Agency | Primary Program Purpose & Direct Benefit: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) | Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) | Provides grants and technical assistance for soil conservation, erosion control, and micro-irrigation systems. USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Direct & Guaranteed Farm Loans; Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Offers capital for operational costs and infrastructure repairs following extreme weather events. USDA / VIDA Sub-Grants Micro-Grants for Food Security Program (MGFSP) Awards targeted grants directly to small-scale farmers, community gardens, and youth ag programs to boost local yields. USDA Rural Development Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Grants and loans to install renewable energy systems, lowering electricity costs for irrigation and farm operations.

Environmental Stewardship: Protecting Our Paradise

Our natural resources are our greatest asset and our first line of defense against climate change. We must transition from reactive cleanups to proactive, statutory conservation.





Strict Enforcement of Environmental Legislation:

We will ensure the strictest enforcement of the territory's environmental laws, protecting our precious air and groundwater from industrial contamination and monitoring vulnerable areas, including local Superfund sites.



Modernizing Waste Management:

We will partner with proven, innovative firms to revolutionize our waste disposal systems. This involves establishing comprehensive recycling initiatives, properly managing our landfills, and scaling up heavy equipment rentals to efficiently handle disaster debris.



Animal Welfare and Community Care:

Recognizing the clear link between community health and the humane treatment of animals, our administration will actively support animal welfare initiatives. We will expand public-private partnerships with local non-profits, like the Humane Society of St. Thomas, St. Croix Animal Welfare Center, Animal Care Center of St. John, to fund territory-wide spay-and-neuter programs, improve shelter infrastructure, and enforce strict animal cruelty laws.

Restoring Dignity: Transforming Mental Healthcare in the Virgin Islands

For far too long, behavioral health and mental care have remained severely underfunded, understaffed, and overlooked across our Territory. The lack of a dedicated, modern transitional mental health facility in the U.S. Virgin Islands has forced vulnerable residents into an unsustainable cycle: ending up in correctional facilities due to a lack of options, or being shipped away from their families to off-island mainland institutions.

Our community deserves a compassionate, localized system of care that treats mental illness as a health priority rather than a law-enforcement burden.



The Donastorg / Nelson Vision

Under the **Donastorg / Nelson** vision, mental health is recognized as foundational to the overall well-being, safety, and prosperity of our islands. We envision a community where care is accessible, culturally responsive, and provided locally with dignity and respect.

Core Pillar: Establishing a Dedicated Transitional Behavioral Health Facility

To bridge the gap between acute crisis intervention and independent community living, our platform prioritizes developing a state-of-the-art Transitional Mental Health Facility serving both St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix districts.

This facility will serve as a hub for:

- ✓ **Step-Down Inpatient Care:**
Providing safe, structured residential care for individuals transitioning out of hospital crisis units or correctional supervision.
- ✓ **Reintegration Services:**
Offering life-skills training, vocational support, and stable housing transition assistance to help residents reintegrate into society.
- ✓ **Dual-Diagnosis & Recovery Support:**
Integrating holistic addiction treatment alongside mental health therapy to address co-occurring disorders.

Action Plan: What It Takes to Modernize Behavioral Healthcare

Achieving lasting reform in this neglected sector requires a bold, strategic approach across four vital areas:



1. Sustainable Infrastructure & Facilities

- ✓ Secure federal grants, local capital improvement funds, and public-private partnerships (P3S) to finance construction and operational upkeep.
- ✓ Repurpose underutilized government properties into modern, secure, and welcoming recovery centers.



2. Workforce Attraction & Retention

- ✓ Establish competitive incentive programs (loan forgiveness, housing stipends, and signing bonuses) to recruit and retain psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers, and psychiatric nurses.
- ✓ Collaborate with the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) to build behavioral health training programs and pipelines for local talent.



3. Legislative Reform & Decriminalization

- ✓ Divert non-violent individuals who have mental illness away from the Bureau of Corrections and into specialized mental health diversion courts and treatment facilities.
- ✓ Modernize territorial health codes to align emergency commitment and outpatient treatment standards with modern medical best practices.



4. Community-Based & Holistic Support Systems

- ✓ Expand mobile crisis response units (integrating mental health clinicians alongside first responders) to de-escalate crises safely.
- ✓ Integrate mental health screening and wellness counseling within local clinics, schools, and community centers to reduce stigma and catch warning signs early.

"A society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable. By investing in comprehensive mental healthcare and transitional facilities right here at home, we restore hope, heal families, and build a safer, healthier Virgin Islands for everyone." - **The Donastorg / Nelson Platform.**

Government Reform: Transparency and Fiscal Responsibility

The solutions outlined above are only as good as the government executing them. The Donastorg-Nelson administration will champion structural political renewal.





Ending the "Implementation Deficit":

The Territory does not lack ideas or federal funding; it lacks the ability to execute. We will establish a Gubernatorial Delivery Unit to transparently track major infrastructure, education, and energy milestones, holding agency heads directly accountable to public timelines.



Protecting Local Revenues:

We will take a conservative, highly disciplined approach to managing the territory's General Fund. We will actively advocate for federal legislation that updates the Rum Cover-Over Program rate, replacing static historical levels with an upward adjustment indexed to inflation and rising living costs, securing millions in vital annual revenue for our infrastructure and pension systems.

Together, through disciplined leadership, professional expertise, and an unyielding love for these islands, we will move the United States Virgin Islands **Fast, Forward, Together.**

Affordable Housing & Reducing Homelessness

The intersection of skyrocketing rent, slow disaster recovery, and inadequate mental health or social support structures has left too many of our people vulnerable. We cannot build a resilient USVI if our own people are sleeping in cars, abandoned buildings, or on the streets of Charlotte Amalie, Christiansted, and Frederiksted.

To solve this, we must first understand the true scope of the problem by identifying the various forms of homelessness affecting our community.



HOMELESS

Understanding the Different Forms of Homelessness

Homelessness in the USVI is not uniform. It manifests in distinct ways, each requiring a tailored policy response:

✓ **1. Disaster-Displaced / Transitional Homelessness:**

This includes individuals and families who had stable housing until a catastrophic event—such as Hurricanes Irma and Maria or severe structural fires—destroyed their homes. They are often trapped in long-term displacement due to the slow pace of rebuilding programs and a lack of immediate, affordable rental options.

✓ **2. Chronic Homelessness:**

Defined federally as an individual who has been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years while struggling with a disabling condition. In the territory, this form is heavily tied to untreated severe mental illness, physical disabilities, or chronic substance abuse, requiring specialized medical and residential care.

✓ **3. Hidden Homelessness / "Couch Surfing":**

This is a massive, underreported crisis in the USVI. These are individuals—often young adults, single mothers, and seniors—who do not sleep on the street but lack a permanent home. Instead, they bounce between the couches, spare rooms, or overcrowded living spaces of relatives and friends. They are highly vulnerable to sudden, complete homelessness.

✓ **4. Episodic Homelessness:**

This affects individuals who frequently cycle in and out of homelessness. Often, these are seasonal laborers, low-wage workers, or individuals transitioning out of the correctional system who experience sudden job loss or medical expenses, causing them to fall behind on high utility or rent costs.

The Strategic Solution:

Actionable Policy Moving Forward

The Donastorg-Nelson administration will move with urgency to transition people from vulnerability to permanent stability through a multi-pronged approach.

1. Accelerating Disaster Housing Recovery (EnVision Tomorrow & CDBG-DR)

We will aggressively overhaul and expedite the territory's lagging disaster housing initiatives.

- We will maximize the billions allocated through HUD's Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to rapidly build resilient, hardened, affordable housing.
- We will streamline the Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (HRR) and Rental Rehabilitation pipelines, eliminating administrative bottlenecks so local contractors can get to work immediately repairing roofs, upgrading electrical lines, and installing storm-mitigation enhancements (such as hurricane-impact windows and reinforced concrete envelopes).

2. Adopting a "Housing First" Model for Chronic Homelessness

We will shift the territory toward the nationally proven Housing First approach, which prioritizes providing permanent, stable housing to chronically homeless individuals before addressing underlying issues like addiction or unemployment.

- Once an individual is stably housed, our administration will deploy comprehensive wraparound services through the Department of Human Services, including mental health counseling, medical care navigation, and job training.

3. Expanding Transitional and Permanent Supportive Housing Stock

According to federal data, the territory lacks sufficient dedicated emergency and permanent supportive housing beds.

- We will leverage public-private partnerships to build dedicated, managed transitional facilities on St. Thomas and St. Croix.

These facilities will serve as safe, temporary safe havens providing clean beds, hot meals, showers, and caseworker access to help individuals transition back into independent living.

4. Direct Assistance to Support First-Time Homebuyers

To prevent hidden or episodic homelessness, we must make homeownership achievable for local families working hard to make ends meet.

- We will fully utilize the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA) turnkey housing development options. We will provide forgivable second mortgages, down-payment help, and closing-cost grants for families making at or below 80% to 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

5. Strengthening the Local Point-In-Time (PIT) Count & Federal Funding

The territory cannot fully fix a problem it does not accurately measure. Service providers have warned that standard counts frequently underestimate our homeless population due to the unique geography of the islands.

We will provide dedicated local planning grants to the Virgin Islands Continuum of Care (CoC) to strengthen the federally mandated annual Point-In-Time homeless count. By capturing an accurate data model, we will unlock millions more in federal HUD funding specifically earmarked for local homelessness assistance programs.

By securing our housing infrastructure and aggressively lifting up our most vulnerable residents, we ensure that no Virgin Islander is left behind as we move **Fast, Forward, Together.**

Staking a Claim in the Future: Why USVI Youth Deserve a "Piece of the Rock"

We've all heard the standard political playbook. Every election cycle, leaders stand behind podiums, look into the cameras, and declare that our young people are "the future" and "our most valuable resource."



Let's be entirely honest: If you look at the actions of our government, do those words ring true? Or does it just sound like the same old gift of gab?

Talk is cheap. Rent is not. Land is definitely not. When a young Virgin Islander graduates, looks at the local job market, looks at the cost of living, and realizes they are priced out of the very islands they call home, that isn't a failure of ambition—it's a failure of policy. Lip service won't build a life, and empty rhetoric won't secure a future.

The Team of Donastorg/Nelson is ready to move past the talk.

We are ready to roll out a vision that our young people can actually relate to and, more importantly, anchor themselves to. It starts with real, tangible actions and a groundbreaking concept: The Youth Land Bank.

Key Initiative: The Youth Land Bank

We believe in putting our young people first. That means giving them a literal stake in this territory—a "piece of the rock" to build on, invest in, and pass down.

The Youth Land Bank is a comprehensive, structured pipeline designed to transition our young adults from students to stable, property-owning pillars of our community

The Youth Land Bank Pipeline



Core Program Pillars

- ✓ **A Piece of the Rock:**
Eligible young Virgin Islanders will have the opportunity to secure a parcel of land—aiming for up to an acre of property—specifically designated for community development and residential growth.
- ✓ **Job & Workforce Positioning:**
Land is only the foundation. Our targeted support programs will actively place participants in positions to secure stable, upwardly mobile employment, ensuring they have the financial baseline to sustain an investment.
- ✓ **Financial & Loan Access:**
We will bridge the gap between local financial institutions and our youth, providing the structural backing, credit-building education, and program-supported loan access needed to finance a first home.
- ✓ **Wraparound Support:**
From blueprint to breaking ground, the program will offer technical assistance, help navigate the permitting process, and provide financial counseling so our youth are never left to figure it out alone.

Moving Past the Same Old Rhetoric

For too long, our greatest export has been our talent. We watch our brightest minds leave for the mainland because the barriers to success here at home feel insurmountable.

"True empowerment isn't a speech; it's an asset. By ensuring our youth can own land, secure a home, and build a career right here, we aren't just telling them they matter—we are anchoring them to our future."

The Donastorg/Nelson vision is about breaking the cycle of the "same ole, same ole." We are focused on creating tangible equity for the next generation. If we want our young people to invest their talents, their families, and their futures in the United States Virgin Islands, we have to give them something real to invest in.



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**Complete platform
available on website**

