

# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF WHITEMAN AIRPORT

Presented by Atlas. Your Path  
Forward.



# OUR MISSION

WHITEMAN AIRPORT COALITION



- Build Coalition of Residents, pilots, business owners, and public safety advocates
- Fight disinformation and make sure the public has accurate information about the airport's future
- Launch a public awareness campaign so decisions about WHP should follow the law, make financial sense, protect public safety, and reflect what the community wants.

# Why Whiteman Airport Should Remain Open

- **Closure May Not Be Legally Possible**

FAA land grant obligations require that the airport stay open

- **Critical and Community Services**

The airport provides emergency, economic, and nonprofit services

- **Closure Would Harm the Community**

Hurt local businesses and emergency response, without delivering any promised benefits





 **20+** Businesses

 **400+** Jobs

 **8** Nonprofits



## Whiteman Supports Local Jobs

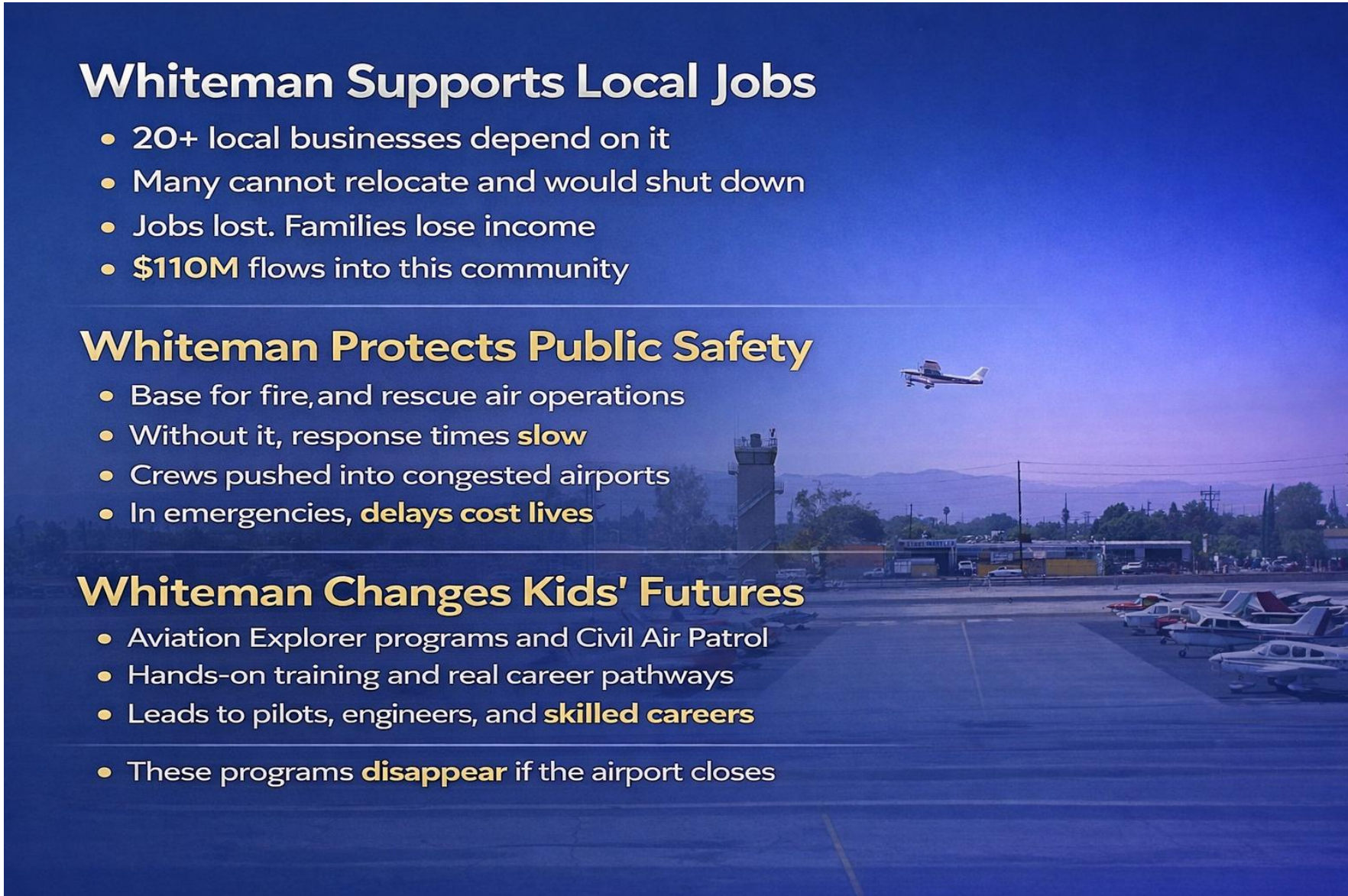
- 20+ local businesses depend on it
- Many cannot relocate and would shut down
- Jobs lost. Families lose income
- **\$110M** flows into this community

## Whiteman Protects Public Safety

- Base for fire, and rescue air operations
- Without it, response times **slow**
- Crews pushed into congested airports
- In emergencies, **delays cost lives**

## Whiteman Changes Kids' Futures

- Aviation Explorer programs and Civil Air Patrol
- Hands-on training and real career pathways
- Leads to pilots, engineers, and **skilled careers**
- These programs **disappear** if the airport closes



WHITEMAN AIRPORT COALITION



FACTS VS.  
FICTION

An aerial photograph of an airport terminal and runways, with a city and mountains in the background. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue box containing text.

## Whiteman Is Operating Within Safety Standards

- Lead and noise levels meet or are below regulatory limits
- Children near the airport have **lower lead levels than the county average**
- Air monitoring shows levels **far below** EPA standards
- FAA-backed programs reduce noise impacts
- The airport provides a **safe, regulated environment** for the community

# Whiteman: What the Data Shows

## Air Lead Levels

- Far below EPA standard (150 ng/m<sup>3</sup>)
- Measured levels: ~**6.9 ng/m<sup>3</sup>** average

## Children's Blood Lead Levels

- **1.75%** near Whiteman
- **2.26%** countywide



Source:  
LA County Dept. of Public Health  
AQMD

# What Happens if Whiteman Closes?

## What history shows

- Airports close
- Land sits unused for years
- Development is slow or uncertain



## What happens immediately

- Jobs are gone
- Community programs disappear
- Emergency response capacity is reduced



## Bottom Line:

**Loss is immediate.**  
**Replacement is uncertain.**



# Closing Whiteman Does **NOT** Mean Fewer Planes

- ➔ Flight paths shift to Burbank and other airports
- ➔ Larger commercial jets replace small aircraft



# FAA Constraints on Closure

## Federal Law Matters Here

- Whiteman operates under FAA land grant obligations (since 1998)
- These obligations require the airport to remain open
- **Only the FAA can release these obligations**  
That would require extraordinary federal action

## What This Raises

- Closure may not be legally viable
- Could set a national precedent for other airports
- Why spend millions studying closure if it may not be allowed?




WHITEMAN AIRPORT COALITION



THE  
COMMUNITY

# Community Accommodation and Shared Goals



 **Run-Up Area Close to Homes**



Voluntary Curfew



Unleaded Fuel



Enhanced Safety Planning



Community Events



**Shared Goals with the Community**



**PLANS SUBMITTED TO FAA**

# Working WITH Community

## Youth & Education Opportunities

- STEM partnerships with local schools
- Student field trips to the airport
- Career exposure and aviation pathways

## Family & Community Events

- Pancake breakfasts
- Drive-in movie nights
- Halloween Plane or Treat
- Toys for Tots collection site

*In development with community partners and LA County*

## Jobs & Opportunity

- **JUNE 27 JOB FAIR**
- Local **employers** and **small businesses** participating
- **Universities** and **training programs** on site

# 2026 WHITEMAN COMMUNITY AVIATION FAMILY FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Whiteman Airport • Pacoima, CA

9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

⚙️ STEM ACTIVITIES

✈️ AIRCRAFT DISPLAYS

✈️ YOUTH INTRODUCTORY  
FLIGHTS (AGES 8-17)

🎓 CAREER & COLLEGE BOOTHS

🍔 FOOD TRUCKS

*Discover aviation, careers, and  
opportunity in your community*



**FREE ADMISSION  
& PARKING**



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**Thank You**

WHITEMAN AIRPORT COALITION

**WAC**