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Citizens' Business

A Newsletter of the
Economy League of
Greater Philadelphia

April 2009



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Take the Philadelphia Budget Challenge!

Think you can close the \$200 million budget gap for FY2010 for the City of Philadelphia?

Click [here](#) to take the Philadelphia Budget Challenge! Join Challenge-takers ranging from Philadelphia classrooms to UK-based bloggers and become a [Fan](#) on Facebook.

Take the Challenge by April 22 to be included in the first report to the city.



If you would like to promote the Challenge to your constituents, a sample blurb can be found [here](#) for your own emails or newsletters.

This online tool uses current data to simulate the decisions about revenue and spending being made now to balance the city's budget. The Economy League created the Challenge to engage more Philadelphians in the budget process and to foster greater understanding of the tough choices necessary to ensure that the region is a great place to live and work - both now and in the future.

Challenge-takers can see how their choices compare to others who've tried the Challenge. Results will be provided to city

League Hits

[Making Sense of the Financial Mess](#) -- *GOOD Magazine* held an infographic design competition to explain the global financial crisis. Check out the entries and winners as chosen by Marketplace's Kai Ryssdal. -- *A. Gold*

[Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan](#) -- Provide your input on this plan being prepared by the Phila. City Planning Commission by attending a community forum or taking an online [survey](#). -- *A. Kelsey*

[Message to President Obama: Do Not Forget the Suburbs](#) -- Check out this insightful commentary on the importance of suburbs in metro areas, published by the [Citistates Group](#). -- *S. Wray*

In the News

[Solve the Philadelphia budget crisis online](#), *Technically Philly*, 4/7

[City skeptical of recent data for Philadelphia property taxes](#), *Philadelphia Daily News*, 4/6

[Balancing budgets](#), Adam Smith Institute (UK), 3/28

[Economy League presents: City Budget, the home edition](#), *Philadelphia City Paper*, 3/23

[Balancing Philadelphia's Budget is New Online "Game," But No Game](#), *KYW Newsradio*, 3/23

[New online budget game arrives in Philadelphia](#), *WHYY/It's Our City*, 3/23

[Balance the budget online](#), *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Heard in

officials. The Philadelphia Budget Challenge was made possible by the Lenfest Foundation. Click [here](#) to learn more.

City Hall, 3/23

[Bigger school districts, lower taxes?](#), *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 3/22

[Stimulus bill to benefit SEPTA](#), *The Loquitor*, 3/19

What are your peers saying about the region's economy? What do you think?



We recently invited more than 30 of Greater Philadelphia's business and nonprofit leaders for moderated roundtable discussions about the state of the city and regional economy. You can "sit in" on these candid exchanges by reading ["Economy League Roundtable I.09: Greater Philadelphia's Leaders on the Regional Economy."](#)

Everyone, from traditionally strong "eds and meds" to real estate, described the recession's chilling effects, yet there was agreement that the area's history of experiencing trends later than other regions do - the "Philly lag" - could be advantageous.

In hosting the roundtables, our goal was to take the pulse of our major economic sectors and to learn:

- Which areas are strong and which need attention?
- What are the threats facing our regional financial health, and what are the opportunities?
- What are the implications for local and state governments?

We would also like to hear from you about what your organization is experiencing. Please take our brief survey [here](#). Click [here](#) to learn more about this project.

James K. Wujcik elected Board Vice Chair

James K. Wujcik, Market Executive of Sovereign Bank, has been [elected](#) to the position of 2009 Vice Chair of the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia. He is passionate about Greater Philadelphia and has taken an active role in numerous civic organizations. Wujcik succeeds John F. Smith III, Esq, who was elected Board Chair in December 2008.



Wujcik is in his third, three-year elected term on the [Board of Chosen Freeholders](#) of Burlington County, NJ, for which he served as Director from 2005 to 2007. He does not plan to run for [reelection](#) in order to focus more on regional planning in his civic work. He serves as Treasurer of "Love Thy Neighbor," a faith-based, community redevelopment effort in

twitter

Follow [@EconomyLeague](#) on Twitter, where Allison Kelsey and Christopher Scoville tweet news, events, and reports about our region.

From the Archives

"The rapid increase in suburban population -- a characteristic of metropolitan areas -- has brought new problems of administration to the numerous small municipalities which surround large cities."

--*Citizens' Business*
#D-1, April 30, 1958

Trenton and is an active board member of Samaritan Hospice and the Small Business Advisory Board for the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

The Economy League looks forward to working with Wujcik and is thankful for his leadership during our 100th anniversary.

Rethinking Philadelphia: Metro Nation

With the issues and challenges of urban centers now the subject of new federal attention, the 2009 Rethinking Philadelphia program will examine the effects that President Obama's urban policy plans will have on Greater Philadelphia as well as other metropolitan areas. Steve Wray, Economy League executive director, will present alongside other regional thinkers.



Tuesday, April 28, 2009
7:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Union League of Philadelphia

This program is produced by the *Philadelphia Daily News* and the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. Click [here](#) to learn more or purchase tickets.

Friday Journal



Each Friday, you'll find a feature about trends, places, programs, and ideas that pique our interest. Whatever the topic, we'll focus on things germane to issues affecting Greater Philadelphia.

[Long live the king \(content, that is\)](#) -- *C. Scoville*

[The Mayors' Institute on City Design: Lessons from Charleston](#)
-- *T. Ashmead*

[Resetting our directional gyros](#) -- *R. Stein*

[Hope for Metro Regions in New White House Office](#) -- *N. Peirce*

Citizens' Business is a monthly publication of the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia. Founded in 1909, the Economy League is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to research and analysis of the region's resources and challenges with the goal of promoting sound public policy and increasing the region's prosperity.

Working with the public and private sectors, the Economy League provides independent research and insight on emerging issues to stimulate public and private action to make the Greater Philadelphia region a better place to live, work, and play. Visit EconomyLeague.org or click [here](#) to contact us.

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