



## ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

### Economy League of Greater Philadelphia

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#### **Mission**

Founded in 1909, the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia 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.

#### **What does the Economy League do?**

The Economy League was founded around a fairly simple idea—that to be a successful, prosperous and well-run region, we need to rigorously examine Greater Philadelphia's challenges and opportunities. The Economy League serves as a civic catalyst—a place where in-depth analysis and committed regional leaders come together to develop new ideas, conceive creative strategies, and forge meaningful partnerships to make Greater Philadelphia a world class place to live, work, and play.

#### **How is the Economy League funded?**

Approximately half of the Economy League's revenue is generated through the regional corporate community's investment in our work. The balance is derived from projects and initiatives aligned with our mission that are funded by local governments, foundations, corporations, and private sector leadership organizations. The Economy League is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization.

#### **What has the Economy League been working on recently?**

The Economy League works on some of the most important issues facing the region relating to the economy, infrastructure, governance, and workforce.

#### *Ongoing Initiatives*

- World Class Greater Philadelphia—An initiative dedicated to making Greater Philadelphia a world class region in which to live, work and do business. Through in-depth research, collaboration with regional stakeholders, and creative problem-solving, the Economy League will develop and implement a shared vision and actionable plan for Greater Philadelphia's future.
- Greater Philadelphia Leadership Exchange—An initiative aimed at developing leaders of business, civic, and government organizations into visionaries dedicated to making Greater Philadelphia a world class region. The program includes a bi-annual learning visit to another region and in-region workshops in alternating years. More than 150 leaders in the region have participated in this initiative since its inception in 2005 with visits to Chicago and Atlanta. The 2010 Leadership Exchange will culminate in a learning visit to the Bay Area and Silicon Valley.

## Recent Reports & Publications

- Implementing Green Infrastructure: Developing a Winning Strategy to Fund Philadelphia's Ambitious Visions—To achieve Philadelphia's ambitious goal of becoming the greenest city in the US, this report recommends funding investments in sustainable transportation, water, and energy. It also emphasizes the need for leadership, cross-department coordination facilitated by the Mayor's Office of Sustainability in the City of Philadelphia, focused demonstration of public benefits, and regional collaboration among counties (Oct. 2009).
- The University City Science Center: An Engine of Economic Growth for Greater Philadelphia—This economic impact analysis of the Science Center's half-century of business incubation services found that the 15,000 jobs created by Science Center-supported companies contribute more than \$9 billion to the regional economy on an annual basis (Sept. 2009).
- It's Time: A World Class Greater Philadelphia—The second volume of *Insight* magazine reports on the findings of the phase one research of the World Class initiative, which sought to understand the meaning and attributes of "world class" regions and Greater Philadelphia's standing nationally and internationally (Aug. 2009).
- Philadelphia Economic Index 2001-2008—This second publicly released Index, which includes the start of the recession, combines data from 15 individual economic indicators, through a relative weighting system, to create a single numerical series that is useful in evaluating economic trends over time (Aug. 2009).
- Philadelphia Budget Challenge—The Philadelphia Budget Challenge is an online, interactive budget balancing program and educational tool. The tool gives residents the opportunity to create a budget that reflects their values and opinions about how the city raises revenue, spends money, and provides services within the context of real-world constraints. Results of more than 3000 users were analyzed and presented to city officials (June 2009).
- Economy League Roundtable I.09: Greater Philadelphia's Leaders on the Regional Economy—This report summarizes the discussion and conclusions of more than 30 leaders from across sectors and industries convened by the Economy League in a series of roundtables to examine the impact of the nation's economic crisis in Greater Philadelphia. 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 do other regions - the "Philly lag" - could be advantageous (April 2009).
- Growth and Consequences in Metro Atlanta: Inside Stories from One of America's Fastest Developing Regions—The first volume of the Economy League's new magazine, *Insight: Issues and Ideas for Greater Philadelphia's Leaders*, focuses on the region visited by participants in the 2008 Greater Philadelphia Leadership Exchange. Metro Atlanta's elected, corporate, and civic leaders discussed the issues they face as part of one of the fastest growing places in the country (Feb. 2009).
- Economic Impact of Ben Franklin Technology Partners—This study quantifies the economic impact of investment in early-stage technology companies and in innovation in established manufacturers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The report shows that technology companies funded by the Ben Franklin Technology Partners, a statewide economic development network, boosted the state economy (gross state product) by \$9.3 billion from 2002 to 2006 (Feb. 2009).
- The Philadelphia Gas Works: Challenges and Solutions—This study examines the Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW) and finds that this long-ailing City-owned company has improved its performance in recent years. However, significant structural issues require attention if the utility is to become a working asset for the city and lower its costs to customers while enhancing its value for that time when market conditions are more favorable for a potential sale or other conveyance (Oct. 2008).
- Everyone's Business: Building Minority Businesses to Scale for Our Region's Future—This report defines the obstacles minority-owned businesses face in trying to grow to scale and suggests a public and private sector support strategy (Oct. 2008).

## Contact us

To learn more about our work, visit [www.EconomyLeague.org](http://www.EconomyLeague.org) where you can sign up for our monthly newsletter, read the latest news, and download current and archived research. To learn more about how your organization can partner with or invest in the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia, please contact Alison Gold at [agold@economyleague.org](mailto:agold@economyleague.org) or (215) 875-1000 x18.