

Citizens' Business

A Newsletter of the
Economy League of
Greater Philadelphia

June 2009



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Philadelphia Budget Challenge Results

The Economy League just released its report of the first 30 days of results of Challenge-takers' budget choices in the online, interactive [Philadelphia Budget Challenge](#). The Challenge has been taken by 3000 individuals to date.



Key findings include:

- 43% of those taking the Challenge arrived at a balanced budget or a surplus; 57% finished with a deficit.
- 66% chose to raise the Sales Tax. Of those, more than half chose a 1% increase (the proposal now in the hands of Harrisburg) and slightly fewer than half opted for a 0.1% increase.
- More than 70% of Challenge-takers did not cut funding for the Police and Fire Departments.
- A more than two-thirds majority were not in favor of raising Business Privilege Taxes or Wage Taxes.

The Challenge will remain online at EconomyLeague.org/Budget at least until the end of the city's fiscal year, June 30.

Support for the Philadelphia Budget Challenge was provided by the [Lenfest Foundation](#). Key partners in the project include the [Fels Institute of Government](#) and the [Penn Project for Civic Engagement](#), both of the University of Pennsylvania.

The Economy League Celebrates 100 Years

League Hits

[Urban-Metro-Global: Our New Economic Imperative](#)

-- A great piece from [Citiwire](#) on the increasing need to look at national economic policy through the lens of metro areas. --
A. Kelsey

[Philadelphia: A Vision of 2040](#) -- Penn graduate planning students envision Philadelphia in 2040. --
C. Kwan

In the News

[Cutting Ben Franklin Technology Partners funding would hurt job creation, retention in Pennsylvania](#), *The Morning Call*, 6/12

[A case for refocusing young lawyers' goals](#), *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 6/1

Staff News

Congrats to [Christopher Scoville](#) on his promotion to communications & development manager.

Intern [Christy Kwan](#) graduated with a master of city planning and returns to the Economy League as a project associate on the [Leadership Exchange](#) and [World Class Greater Philadelphia](#) initiatives.

[Greg Bielecki](#), an economics, history, and political science teacher at La Salle College High School, has joined the Economy League this



"Philadelphians are not short of intelligence: they are chronically short of facts," stated the Economy League at its 40-year mark. As we celebrate our 100th anniversary this year, [take a trip](#) in the wayback

machine to see how the region's oldest public policy research organization came into being.

And for some great gems of insight and possibly a chuckle or two, check out our [selections](#) from the archives of Citizens' Business, our ongoing publication launched in 1910.

Last day to apply to the 2009 Leadership Exchange

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to work with peers in business, government, and nonprofits across the region as we look towards the future in the 2009 Greater Philadelphia Leadership Exchange, **Global Connections & Our Region's Future**, on Thursday, September 10.



Deadline is 5:00 p.m. EDT today!

Learn more or apply online [here](#).

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.

[A memorial for my two dead trees](#) -- *C. Scoville*

[A stimulus plan we can all get behind](#) -- *J. Tschirgi & S. Wray*

[Shades of Green](#) -- *S. Odell*

[Philadelphia Futbol!](#) -- *R. Gordon*

summer as a postgraduate fellow.

[Adam Biswanger](#), a rising senior at Syracuse University, is working as a research intern for the summer.

@EconomyLeague

Follow [@EconomyLeague](#) where Allison Kelsey and Christopher Scoville tweet news, events, and other happenings in the region relevant to our work.



From the Archives

Take a look at 100 years of [Citizens' Business archives](#) as we celebrate our 100th anniversary.

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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