Insight and Leadership for Greater Philadelphia
The Economy League is a civic catalyst that brings together cross-sector leaders and organizations to address the most challenging issues facing Greater Philadelphia. Built on our foundation of independent, high-quality analysis and practical insight, we spark new ideas, develop strategies, and galvanize action to make Greater Philadelphia globally competitive.

Guided by a board of directors composed of senior executives from the region’s leading firms and institutions, the Economy League occupies a unique position at the intersection of Greater Philadelphia’s business, civic, and public-sector communities. Through analysis and action, we work with diverse partners to improve education and talent development outcomes in our region, boost business growth, and make our infrastructure more effective and reliable.

“"The Economy League partners with key civic, business, and governmental organizations to drive growth and expand opportunity across the region."

ROB McNEILL
Managing Partner, Greater Philadelphia Region
Deloitte LLP

WHO WE ARE

THE WORLD CLASS AGENDA

Today, the Economy League works to drive change through its World Class Greater Philadelphia agenda—a shared framework for regional improvement developed with input from nearly 2,000 regional business, nonprofit, government, labor, and community leaders.

FOCUS AREAS

EDUCATION & TALENT DEVELOPMENT

VISION: Greater Philadelphia has a talented workforce where every resident has the skills needed to compete in the global economy.

PREK-12 EDUCATION

All of the region’s children graduate from high school college- and work-ready.

POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS

Greater Philadelphia is a national leader in postsecondary credential attainment.

WORKFORCE READINESS

The region’s workforce skills adapt and match industry needs and support family-sustaining wages.

BUSINESS GROWTH

VISION: New and growing businesses fuel a dynamic regional economy that builds on Greater Philadelphia’s industry and research strengths and connects to global opportunities.

STARTING & GROWING BUSINESSES

Greater Philadelphia is a place where entrepreneurs can successfully create and grow businesses to scale.

INNOVATION

Greater Philadelphia is a leader in bringing innovative ideas and technologies to the marketplace.

SELLING TO THE WORLD

Greater Philadelphia’s businesses capitalize on global export and investment opportunities.

INFRASTRUCTURE

VISION: Greater Philadelphia has convenient connections to regional, national, and global destinations and efficiently provides the key infrastructure necessary for business success and high-quality of life.

GLOBAL & NATURAL CONNECTIONS

Greater Philadelphia connects with the largest and fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the world.

REGIONAL MOBILITY

The region’s transit and road networks provide convenient and efficient connections to communities and employment centers.

SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS

Moderated energy and water systems and open space networks enhance business performance and quality of life.

DESTINATIONS

PRIORITY

FOCUS AREAS

PRIORITY

SUSTAINATIONS

OUR HISTORY

The Economy League traces its roots back to 1909. While the organization has evolved over the past century, the core of our work has remained the same—independent, high-quality analysis and strategies to drive growth and opportunity in Greater Philadelphia.

1909
Founded as Philadelphia Bureau of Municipal Research

1936
Statewide Pennsylvania Economy League (PEL) established

1954
Merger of the Philadelphia Bureau of Municipal Research and the Pennsylvania Economy League

2007
Changed name to Economy League of Greater Philadelphia to reflect regional focus

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ecoameleague.org
WE PROVIDE INSIGHT

The Economy League leverages its historic foundation of independent, high-quality analysis to deepen understanding of key regional opportunities and challenges.

With more than a century of experience analyzing all things Greater Philadelphia, the Economy League possesses an intimate understanding of the most important public policy, economic development, education and workforce, and infrastructure issues facing our region. Widely recognized among business and civic leaders for its independence and integrity, the Economy League rigorously examines critical hurdles and building blocks for more dynamic growth and shared prosperity across Greater Philadelphia.

“For more than 100 years, the Economy League’s clear-eyed research and analysis has helped shape the civic conversation in our region.”

CHRISTINA CHEPEL
Partner
KPMG LLP

“Our partnership with the Economy League has resulted in valuable research that provides us with important clarity as we seek to advance and invest in education and workforce outcomes for the region.”

JIM CAWLEY
President & CEO
United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey

ECONOMY LEAGUE OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA
WE CONNECT LEADERS

The Economy League’s signature events provide business and civic leaders with insight, strategies, and connections to galvanize action on critical issues facing Greater Philadelphia.

The Greater Philadelphia Leadership Exchange (GPLEX) exposes attendees to best practices in other metros while strengthening relationships among our region’s top business, nonprofit, and government executives. Participants deepen their appreciation of Greater Philadelphia’s potential and their shared dedication to making our region world class.

The Economy League’s World Class events provide business and civic leaders the opportunity to better understand key regional issues, support initiatives that are driving progress in Greater Philadelphia, and forge new connections with their peers.

“Each year, Leadership Exchange participants bring back and implement smart ideas in our region and strengthen relationships to tackle some of our biggest challenges.”

DANIELLE COHN
Senior Director of Entrepreneurial Engagement
Comcast NBCUniversal

“Economy League events are rich with insight and provide an opportunity to meet with leaders who are committed to building a world class future for Greater Philadelphia.”

STEVEN BRADLEY
President & CEO
Bradley & Bradley Associates

economyleague.org

GPLEX THROUGH THE YEARS

2005 Chicago
2008 Atlanta
2009 Philadelphia
2010 San Francisco
2011 Toronto
2012 Philadelphia
2013 Boston
2015 Philadelphia
2016 Philadelphia
2016 Los Angeles
2016 Toronto
2016 San Francisco
2016 Philadelphia
2016 Atlanta
2016 Chicago
WE DRIVE REGIONAL CHANGE

The Economy League works in collaboration with key civic, business, and governmental organizations to develop and advance initiatives focused on driving growth and opportunity across Greater Philadelphia.

We draw upon in-depth analysis of key regional issues to create actionable strategies and forge partnerships to advance the education, business growth, and infrastructure priorities laid out in the World Class agenda.

“The analysis the Economy League conducted on SEPTA’s statewide impact was indispensable during the discussions and debate in Harrisburg that eventually led to legislation establishing dedicated state funding for transportation capital improvements.”

RICHARD G. BURNFIELD
Deputy General Manager
SEPTA

“The Economy League expertise has helped the Science Center quantify its impact as an engine for economic growth and identify shared priorities for advancing the Greater Philadelphia region as a world class hub for innovation.”

STEPHEN S. TANG, PHD, MBA
President & CEO
University City Science Center

“The Economy League has played a key role in Campus Philly’s launch and maturation, providing foundational research, program development, and ongoing partnership that have helped it become a driving force for the region’s talent and growth efforts.”

DEBORAH DIAMOND
President
Campus Philly

“Economy League analysis laid the groundwork for a comprehensive strategy that is helping University City realize its potential as a world class urban innovation center. The Economy League worked with partners including the University of Pennsylvania, the University City Science Center, and University City District has spurred ambitious new real estate development, placemaking, marketing, and programs to convert University City’s considerable research assets into increased startup and job growth.”

STEPHEN S. TANG, PHD, MBA
President & CEO
University City Science Center

In-depth analysis of SEPTA’s statewide impact conducted by the Economy League helped to propel debate in Harrisburg around landmark transportation funded legislation for Pennsylvania. The Economy League organized a coalition of key business executives, civic leaders, and issue experts to urge state legislators and the governor to increase funding for transportation infrastructure.

“Economy League’s knowledge industry research helped focus attention on the importance of college student retention for our region’s future, leading to the creation of Campus Philly, a nationally recognized nonprofit focused on attracting, engaging, and retaining recent graduates. Additional research on college completion paved the way for Graduate! Philadelphia, a first-of-its-kind program to help adults finish their degrees.”

RICHARD G. BURNFIELD
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ECONOMY LEAGUE OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

economyleague.org
GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to get involved with the Economy League’s efforts to drive growth and opportunity in Greater Philadelphia.

LEARN

Learn more about the World Class agenda by visiting economyleague.org, reading our Regional Direction blog, or subscribing to our monthly Citizens’ Business newsletter. Signature events such as the annual World Class Summit, the Greater Philadelphia Leadership Exchange, and World Class Forums provide unique opportunities to deepen understanding about our region’s challenges and potential.

JOIN

Become an individual member of Friends of the Economy League—a network of individuals who care passionately about the future of our region, are inspired to action through insightful programs and content, and want to connect with a diverse and dynamic community of thoughtful leaders.

PARTNER

Partner with the Economy League on an analysis or strategy project to drive regional impact. Past partnership projects have resulted in new highway connections, increased retention of recent college graduates, new strategies for economic growth, better understanding of the value of early childhood education—and more.

INVEST

Invest in the Economy League by making a financial contribution or sponsoring an event. The Economy League’s work is made possible by the financial support and board leadership of the region’s top corporations, institutions, and organizations. Our high-quality events attract cross-sector regional leaders and provide exceptional branding opportunities for your business or organization.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

CONTACT US AT 215-875-1000 OR INFO@ECONOMYLEAGUE.ORG