



WE HAVE TWO PROBLEMS

In bad times like these, the city **takes in less money to pay for essential services**—less wage tax, less business tax, less property tax.

In bad times like these, people in the city **need more essential services**—more health centers, more libraries, more shelter beds, more public transportation, more security workers, more probation officers, more...

We need to solve **BOTH** of these problems.

Make sure we discuss the real question:

How do we pay for ALL the services we need?

If we want a full and honest discussion of our city budget problems, we can't talk just about what we're willing to give up. We have to start with **what we need**, and then discuss **how to pay for it**. While no one wants to raise taxes, that's what governments often have to do, even if only temporarily, during recessions. And we can fund all the services we need if everyone pays their fair share of taxes.

We also need a full discussion of who pays taxes and who doesn't. **Is everyone paying their fair share** to support the city? **Are some people paying more or less than their fair share?** *See the other side for more details.*

JOIN THE COALITION FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN DEMANDING:

- 1) Full funding for essential city services – no cuts.**
- 2) Increased revenue by everyone paying their fair share.**

To find out more or get involved, contact:

THE COALITION FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (partial list) Call 215-568-4990 to join): Coalition to Save the Libraries, Philly Neighborhood Networks, AFSCME District Council 47, One Philadelphia, SEIU – Local 32BJ, Vote for Homes! Coalition, Media Mobilizing Project, Asian Americans United, Fire Fighters Union Local 22, Lutheran Settlement House, Philadelphia Student Union, ACORN, Kingsessing 5th Div. Community of Neighbors, Casino-Free Philadelphia, Kensington Welfare Rights Union, Philadelphia Legal Services Union, Tenant Union Representative Network, Public Citizens for Children and Youth

Are these revenue SAVING options on tonight's handout?

REVENUE ACTIONS

SOURCE	ACTION	IMPACT	POINTS	YOUR CHOICE
1. FINES AND COSTS	Collect 50% of \$1,000,000,000 bail money owed to the city <i>-Philadelphia Inquirer</i>	People pay 50% of bail money they owe.	250	
2. REAL ESTATE	Collect \$38,000,000 a year with PILOT program	Makes sure institutions like: Penn and Jefferson, pay something for the services they receive.	19	
	End the 10-year local property tax abatement	Abatement market value increase for 2008 tax year: \$449,260,000 (BRT Website) = \$11,880,000 lost in taxes from 2007 tax year. - Collect 50% of these lost taxes.	3	
3. TAXES	Collect 50% of \$400,000,000 in uncollected taxes <i>-Alan Butkovitz, Phila. City Controller</i>	50% of taxes owed to the city are paid.	100	
	Close corporate loopholes in state taxes and create revenue sharing stream for stressed PA cities	Potential income to Philadelphia: \$ 50,000,000.	25	
	Roll back Wage Tax to 2004 level to half a percentage point higher then currently set: 3.9% to 4.5 % - While also exempting low wage families such as: a family of four making \$35,000 a year or less	Could generate \$ 112,000,000.	56	
	Roll back Gross Receipts Tax to 2003 level from: .0014 to .0023 - While exempting businesses with gross sales less then \$500,000 a year	Could generate \$ 36,000,000.	18	
	Convert Wage Tax to an Income Tax	Would collect taxes on dividends and interest as well as wages. Would collect: \$ 38,000,000.	19	
	End exemptions from the Business Privilege Tax for financial institutions and port-related businesses	Impact can not be assessed until information from the revenue department is received.	TBA	
	Amend state constitution to allow progressive taxation	Would promote fairness in the Code, and the ability to raise more funds from those who could pay.	TBA	
	4. BAILOUT	Use bailout money to refinance city's pension fund	Could save \$ 400,000,000.	200

If they are not:

Demand

they be added!