

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Economy League of Greater Philadelphia

Chair: James R. Waddington, Jr.
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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 501(c)(3) organization.

What has the Economy League been working on recently?

The Economy League is working on some of the most important issues facing the region centered around the economy, infrastructure, governance, and workforce—funding funding our regional transportation system, understanding the potential of our ports as centers of business and trade, improving the connections between our colleges and our economy, and increasing the number of children who have access to high quality early education opportunities. Some of our most recent projects include:

- *Greater Philadelphia Leadership Exchange*—the Economy League's initiative aimed at developing leaders of business, civic, and government organizations into visionaries dedicated to making Greater Philadelphia a world class region. In 2008, the program will consist of 3 parts: Orientation, Regional Exploration, and the Exchange to Metro Atlanta September 24 to 26.

- *Maritime Commerce in Greater Philadelphia*—released in July 2008, this report is an evaluation of existing port conditions along the Delaware River and market-driven opportunities for expansion. The report includes an economic impact analysis, Delaware River port descriptions, global trends, and recommended strategies for ports growth.
- *Commonwealth Giving: A Report on Pennsylvania Philanthropy*—released in May 2008, this report analyzes data on philanthropic giving in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The study reveals the magnitude and trends in individual and foundation giving in the state between 1995 and 2005.
- *Philadelphia's Quiet Crisis: The Rising Cost of Employee Benefits*—released in January 2008, this report by the Economy League and The Pew Charitable Trusts finds Philadelphia's pension and health care costs for city employees increasing at a much faster rate than the city's revenue. According to the study, the amount of money the city pays to cover pension obligations and health care benefits for current and retired city employees is projected to rise to more than \$1 billion or roughly 28 percent of the city's budget by 2012.
- *Political Candidates As Regional Leaders Questionnaire*—In fall 2007, six of Greater Philadelphia's leading regional civic organizations met to discuss the implications of the fall county executive and mayoral races on the region's economic, social, and political future. Together, we created the first-ever pre-election survey directed at those running for commissioners' seats in Bucks, Delaware, and Montgomery counties, Chester County Council, and Philadelphia's two mayoral candidates.
- *Accelerating Technology Transfer in Greater Philadelphia*—Greater Philadelphia possesses a strong commercialization infrastructure, one of the nation's largest and richest life sciences industry clusters, and an exceptional number of colleges and universities. Yet, private sector commercialization of research, or "tech transfer," remains a small sector of activity given the strength of the region's science and technology climate. The Economy League's report examines this gap and makes targeted recommendations for private, public/nonprofit, and academic sector action, collectively as well as individually, to accelerate technology transfer.
- *The Price of Inaction: An Analysis of Economic Impacts Associated with SEPTA's FY2008 Operating Budget 'Plan B' Alternative*—In May 2007, SEPTA's budget shortfall was \$129.6 million. Lacking a source of funding to balance the transit organization's budget, SETPA planned to implement "Plan B," which would have cut service by 20% and increased fares by 31%. This report builds upon data sets and research models to quantify the economic impacts of Plan B on individuals, businesses, government, and the region's overall competitiveness. The report, in concert with a strong communications message, helped convene public and private regional leaders to secure a dedicated funding solution.
- *Profiles in Leadership: America's Great Mayors*—In conjunction with the Fels Institute of Government at University of Pennsylvania, the Economy League has hosted mayors, who have demonstrated exceptional leadership on issues common to cities nationwide, in candid discussions about how they provided leadership that achieved results. Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper and former Washington, D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams launched the series, with Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin capping it off in January 2008.
- *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.

To learn more about our work, visit www.EconomyLeague.org where you can 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, Deputy Director for Strategy & Operations, at agold@economyleague.org or (215) 875-1000 x18.