



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.

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.*

A just resolution of the budget crisis must meet two standards:

- 1) Provide full funding for essential city services.**
- 2) Make sure everyone pays their fair share.**

To find out more or get involved, contact:

Neighborhood Networks

[215-568-4990](tel:215-568-4990)
www.phillynn.org

Coalition to Save the Libraries

Save.11.libraries@gmail.com
coalitiontosavethelibraries.blogspot.com

Fire Fighters Local 22

savePFD@iaff22.org
www.savePFD.com

So where will the money come from?

There are ways both to raise the money we need for essential services and to collect more of our taxes from people with the ability to pay. Some have already been proposed, like the tax on petroleum refineries introduced in City Council. Among the many other possibilities are:

- **collect all fines and fees** owed to the city (Inquirer 12/31, 1/29, 1/30, 2/8)
- **make sure institutions like Penn and Jefferson pay something** for the city services they receive
- **exempt** a certain amount of wages, property value and gross business receipts from taxation while raising rates
- **convert our wage tax into an income tax** to collect taxes on dividends and interest as well as wages
- **end the 10-year local property tax abatement** for new housing
- **end exemptions** from the Business Privilege Tax for banks and other financial institutions and for port-related businesses
- **close corporate loopholes** in state taxes
- **amend the state constitution** to allow progressive taxation
- **use federal bailout money** to refinance the city's pension fund

Tell City Council you want FULL SERVICES and FAIR TAXES

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Blondell Reynolds Brown (215) 686-3438
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