



A PHILLY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

THE WEALTH TO FUND OUR CITY EXISTS



ABOUT THE AUTHORS



The **Action Center on Race & the Economy (ACRE)** formed in 2017 to drive political and policy campaigns that fight for structural change. We fight for racial and economic justice by exposing and challenging financial institutions and political actors who profit at the expense of communities of color.

www.acrecampaigns.org



AFSCME DC 47 Local 2187 is a progressive labor union fighting for workers' rights, social justice, and fairness in our communities. We represent employees of The City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Housing Authority, and Philadelphia Parking Authority. AFSCME DC 47 Local 2187 represents over 2500 city workers.

www.afscme2187.org



Since 1970, the **Faculty and Staff Federation of Community College of Philadelphia (FSFCCP), Local AFT2026**, has organized as three bargaining units to secure and defend fair contracts and safe, just working conditions at the College and beyond. AFT 2026 represents over 1200 faculty and staff.

www.aft2026.org



Amistad Law Project is organizing to end mass incarceration in Pennsylvania. Through strategic campaigns and legal advocacy, we advance healing justice for communities harmed by the criminal legal system, social inequality, and violence.

www.amistadlaw.org



The **Treatment Not Trauma** campaign brings together community members—mental health providers, advocates, and directly impacted individuals—to fight for a fully funded and well-run mental health crisis infrastructure in Philadelphia.

www.tntnow.org



National Domestic Workers Alliance-PA chapter and its We Dream in Black program has been organizing domestic workers since 2018. In that time, we've won the Philadelphia Domestic Workers Bill of Rights and the Philadelphia City Hall Domestic Workers Standards and Implementation Task Force, the only worker-specific task force of its kind in city government.

www.domesticworkers.org/membership/chapters/pennsylvania-chapter



One PA is a base-building organization led by community members, creating a powerful voice for racial, economic, and social justice in Pennsylvania.

www.onepa.org



The **Philly Black Worker Project (PBWP)** is a Black-led, Black-run organizing vehicle with the mission to lead and engage in campaigns that empower Black workers to advance our rights and improve job quality in key employment sectors.

www.blackworkers215.org

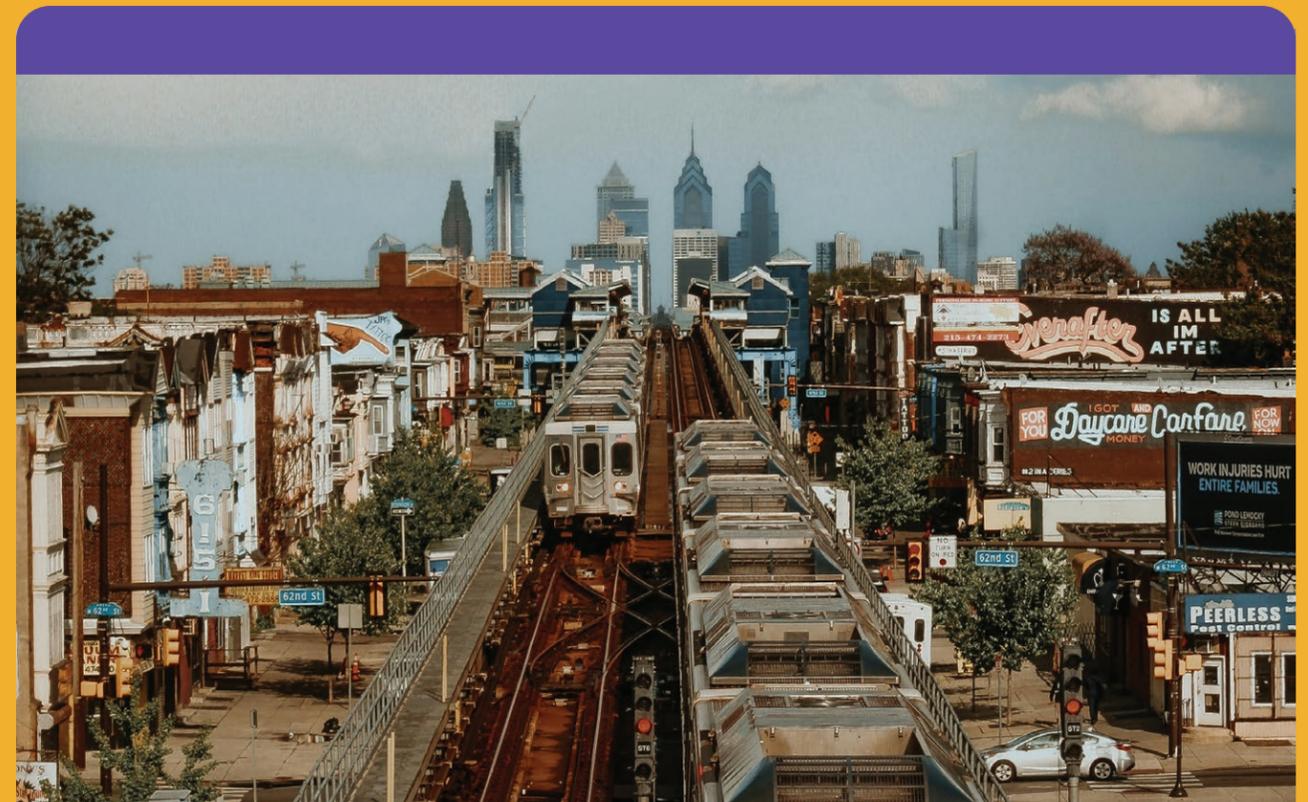


Tax the Rich PHL is a campaign led by librarians, educators, parents, public workers, retirees, who believe that Philadelphia deserves fully-funded robust public services, paid for by the corporations, billionaires, and institutions who have dodged paying their fair share for decades.

www.taxtherichphl.org

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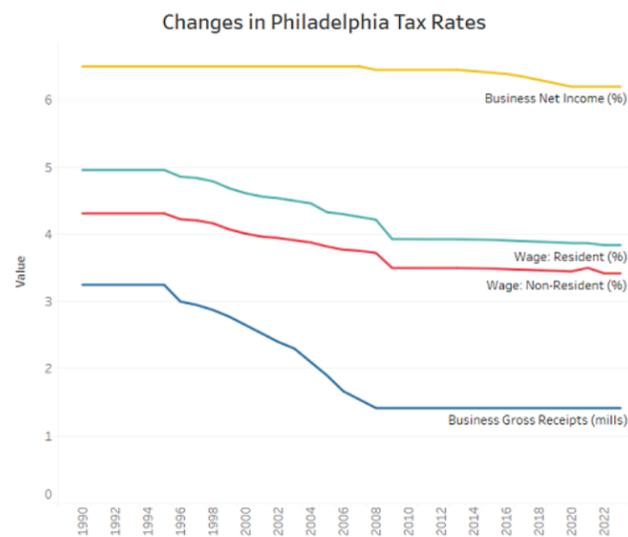


Philadelphians have known for decades that the recipe for a safe and thriving city requires strong investments in education, fully staffed city services, and programs that keep us safe, like mobile crisis units and robust libraries and recreation centers.

Philadelphia is known for being “America’s poorest big city,” but with luxury buildings going up across the city and mega-corporations getting millions of dollars in tax giveaways, the truth has never been more clear: **the wealth to fund our city exists.** Mega-corporations, like Comcast and Independence Blue Cross, use front groups like the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia to campaign against solutions that would hold them accountable for the harms they create in our community.

We—community college workers, city workers, domestic workers, social workers and all of us who rely on vital city services—are the people who make Philadelphia work, and **we know that our city needs more.**

We need our elected officials to choose a side: will they stand with Big Business, the wealthy, and the Chamber of Commerce or will they invest in our demands for the common good of *all* Philadelphians?



When we don't tax the rich...

- Over the last 3 decades, the tax rates for the three largest sources of City revenue—the wage and earnings tax, real estate property tax, and business income and receipts tax—have seen steep decreases.¹ The City is projected to **lose \$170 million over the next 5 years** from city council’s 2023 cuts to the wage and business tax.²
- The Chamber of Commerce, which has annual revenues over \$11 million,³ spends aggressively on ads,⁴ campaign contributions,⁵ and lobbying. During last year’s budget cycle, the Chamber advocated for cuts to wage and business taxes that would result in **over half a billion dollars in city revenue lost** in the next 10 years.⁶
- The city got \$1.4 billion in federal pandemic relief that will run out next year.⁷ Without that boost from the federal government, our city stands to lose even more of our vital city services.

Our communities are forced to foot the bill...

- Over the last 20 years, the city has underfunded the Community College of Philadelphia and shifted over \$325 million in operating costs onto students.⁸
- As of last summer, 1 in 5 city jobs sat vacant,⁹ in part because wages have not kept up with inflation. These shortages put a big strain on the existing workers and deprive residents of vital services, like protections from labor and housing violations, functional libraries and recreational centers, and holistic crisis response.
- Nearly half of Philadelphia households are “cost-burdened” by their rent with a lack of affordable housing solutions.¹⁰

Widening the racial pay gap and hurting Black and Brown Philadelphians the most.

- There is a \$10,000 pay gap between the average white City of Philadelphia employee and the average City employee of color.¹¹
- Salaries for sanitation laborers and librarians (who work for city departments that are comprised of a majority of staff of color)¹² only increased by 19% from 2010–2021, whereas salaries for Philadelphia police officers (a department with a majority of non-hispanic white staff) increased by 37% over the same time period.¹³
- Black Philadelphians’ median household income grew at the slowest rate compared to other racial groups between 2010–2021.¹⁴

**THERE IS A
\$10,000
PAY GAP
BETWEEN
THE AVERAGE
WHITE CITY OF
PHILADELPHIA
EMPLOYEE AND
THE AVERAGE
CITY EMPLOYEE
OF COLOR**



THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA

AT LEAST \$20M MORE




YUSEFA SMITH
Assistant Professor

*"My grandmother, who raised me, proudly attended CCP and I now teach Foundational Math there. She chose CCP for its affordability and because it provided a pathway to her dream of becoming a social worker. To this day, I hold affordability and opportunity creation close to my heart. CCP is truly the college of Philadelphia, offering a pathway for its residents to attain higher education, just as my grandmother did. Without her paving the way, I wouldn't be where I am today. However, **if we aspire to truly be Philadelphia's college, we need the necessary investment.** Our students, staff, and faculty are all struggling due to insufficient funding, resulting in outdated salaries and facilities. To provide the best experience for our students, we need it to be a great place for staff and faculty too."*

"I received two degrees from CCP and a bachelor's from Temple. Now I'm back working in multimedia services at CCP. I love being back working with Philadelphia's students, but to make CCP a job that people can stay at, we need higher wages."

*CCP loves to tell students what the average starting salary is after they complete CCP's program. And yet, as a CCP staff member, I'm making over \$20,000 less than what CCP is advertising. **If we're going to provide the best learning environments for our students, we as staff deserve dignity and respect.**"*



MYLES HINSEY
Multimedia Technician

WE CAN AFFORD TO FULLY FUND OUR VISION FOR A THRIVING CCP AND SO MUCH MORE. WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE:

ARE WE GIVING CORPORATIONS MORE BUSINESS TAX BREAKS?

OR

ARE WE PROVIDING AN AFFORDABLE AND ROBUST HIGHER EDUCATION TO THOUSANDS OF YOUNG BLACK AND BROWN PEOPLE ACROSS PHILADELPHIA?

The State of Philadelphia's Public College

- CCP is **Philadelphia's college**, serving a working class student population that is nearly 70% women and 73% students of color, most of whom are Black.¹⁵ For the last 40 years, the City of Philadelphia has repeatedly fallen short of its commitment to fund a third of the college's operating budget.¹⁶
- **Because the city hasn't paid:**
 - Black and Brown Philly students have been forced to cover costs the city won't pay by taking out **nearly \$20 million annually in student loans.**¹⁷
 - Students are paying more and getting less support. Students report that the college has been **chronically understaffed**, without enough professors, counselors, facilities staff, and financial aid officers to support student retention and success.
 - Staff and faculty report **poor working conditions, pay equity discrepancies, wages and benefits that don't keep up with the cost of living, and underfunded DEI initiatives.** All of this hinders our faculty and staff's ability to provide the best learning conditions for our students.
 - Many of the college's facilities are falling apart—with minimal updates since the 1960s, poor cooling and heating, and water damage. The **deteriorating physical environment** hurts the health and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff.



Our Vision for the Community College of Philadelphia:

- **Students, staff, and faculty deserve dignity and respect** in their classrooms and at their jobs. We need a community college that doesn't put Black and Brown students in debt. That requires a fully-funded operating budget that allows us to hire and retain the staff our students that depend on.
- **Full staffing** means much **smaller class sizes** for more hands-on learning and **manageable student ratios** for counselors, librarians, advisors and learning lab faculty. CCP's students deserve the same classroom experiences as community college students in whiter suburban areas.
- Meet the **immediate needs** of our students and staff so that they can show up to learn by addressing student hunger, transportation and childcare access on campus.
- **21st century learning facilities for all students, staff and faculty**— CCP needs updated, energy efficient facilities that support the health and well-being of the campus community.
- **CCP needs a \$20 million annual increase in funding from the City.** The state has proposed increased higher education funding, and the City needs to do the same.



PHILADELPHIA MOBILE CRISIS UNIT

AT LEAST
\$7M MORE




ANNETTE DEIGH

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

*“While working as an outpatient therapist for Family Practice Counseling Network, I found myself sitting in front of a client in crisis: he was physically disabled and voicing a plan to harm himself, had no means of getting to a Crisis Response Center on his own, and voiced a real fear of the police. I contacted the mobile crisis line in Philadelphia to request assistance. No one assisted me on the phone initially, other than to tell me to call the police. This agitated my client even more. I called mobile crisis back, and they said they would send someone out. **They kept saying they would come. They never did.** I waited with my client from around 1 PM until 6 PM. He finally was able to contract for safety [formally agree not to harm himself]. I believe he got tired of waiting for help... help that never came.”*

WE CAN AFFORD TO FULLY FUND OUR VISION FOR FUNCTIONAL AND RESPONSIVE MOBILE CRISIS UNITS ACROSS PHILADELPHIA AND SO MUCH MORE. WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE:

ARE WE GIVING CORPORATIONS MORE BUSINESS TAX BREAKS?

OR

ARE WE BRINGING LIFE-SAVING SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE WHO NEED IT MOST ACROSS OUR CITY?



The State of Our Underfunded Mobile Crisis Unit:

According to Treatment Not Trauma’s analysis of Department of Behavior Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS) data:¹⁸

- At least **1 in 5 adults in Philadelphia is at risk** of experiencing a mental health crisis, and even more Philadelphians have a loved one at risk of crisis.
- As of April 2023, Philadelphia’s mental health crisis hotlines receive an **average of 200 calls a day**. This represents a **massive increase in call volume** since 2020, with 20-25% increases across each year.
- Transfers from 911 to crisis hotlines **increased by 246%** in January 2023 compared to January 2022.
- On May 24, 2023, DBHIDS reported that the **median response time is 1 hour and 8 minutes**, far longer than DBHIDS **goal of 30 minutes**.
- On November 8, 2022, the Commissioner of the City of Philadelphia’s DBHIDS said that the department is developing a fully realized communication and awareness plan for 988, Philadelphia’s Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. However almost one year later, **two-thirds of Philly teens still hadn’t heard about it**.



Our Vision for the Mobile Crisis Unit:

- We deserve a city where anyone experiencing a behavioral health crisis can access a crisis hotline, mobile crisis units, and crisis stabilization.
- To accomplish this in 2024, we would like to see **funding for mobile crisis teams increase to \$20 million**. With this increased funding we want to see program improvements in the following areas:
 - *Emergency Dispatch:* Improved screening criteria and an increase in calls referred to Philadelphia’s Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, 988.
 - *Community Mobile Crisis Response Teams:* Fully operational teams with fair wages and access to mental health services for staff, in order to reduce turnover and hiring delays.
 - *Data Transparency and Community Oversight:* DBHIDS to develop a searchable database of all behavioral health calls and increase access and opportunities for input from community stakeholders.

AS OF APRIL 2023, PHILADELPHIA’S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS HOTLINES RECEIVE AN AVERAGE OF 200 CALLS A DAY.

WORKPLACE PROTECTIONS

**AT LEAST
\$2.6M MORE**




ADRIANA

House Cleaner, National Domestic Workers Alliance - PA Chapter

*"I worked for a Philadelphia cleaning company, where my boss made me work from 6am to 3pm without any breaks. When I learned about my labor rights under the Philadelphia Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, I spoke up and asked my boss for meal and rest breaks and was fired in retaliation the next day. **These violations happen all the time, this is why we need the city to protect and bolster the rights we've secured at the Philadelphia City Council.**"*

*"As a cashier at McDonald's I recruited other employees to go on strike with me. After we demanded fair wages the workplace became tense. They didn't want to fire me so instead they put me on the schedule two days a week until I couldn't stand it anymore. Many workers go through the same thing: **the workplace is made intolerable through illegal retaliation, but there is little that we can do.**"*



MUNIRA

Driver & Former Food Service Worker
- Philly Black Worker Project

WE CAN AFFORD TO FULLY FUND OUR VISION FOR STRONGER, HEALTHIER WORK ENVIRONMENTS ACROSS PHILADELPHIA. WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE:

ARE WE GIVING CORPORATIONS MORE BUSINESS TAX BREAKS?

OR

ARE WE ENSURING THAT WORKERS ACROSS THE CITY ARE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT?

What Philly Workers are Facing:

- Philadelphia workers have fought for and won landmark labor rights legislation, including the Philadelphia Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, Wage Theft Ordinance, Paid Sick Leave, Fair Work Week, and more.
- However, the Philadelphia Office of Worker Protections is vastly underfunded:
 - The FY 2024 budget includes only nine labor investigators for the OWP.¹⁹
 - Worker advocates report that there are **currently only five investigators on staff**, leaving investigators with too high a case load to adequately serve Philadelphians.
- Without adequate resources to enforce these laws, workers are left with:
 - A **lack of knowledge** about existing laws, on both the worker and employer side.
 - A **lack of safety and support** to defend their rights and file claims.
 - Confusion caused by **inconsistencies and enforcement challenges** presented by some of the labor ordinances.
 - Backlash, blacklisting and repeat abuse by employers**, who act with little fear of consequences for retaliation.
 - Workplaces marked by fear and a lack of security for all workers.



Our Vision for the Stronger Worker Protections:

- In order for workers to feel protected and for labor laws to be fully enforced, we need a **fully funded and fully staffed Office of Worker Protections, with \$2.6 million in investment** needed in the FY 2025 budget.
- OWP needs a minimum of 24 staff** to conduct multilingual outreach and education; investigate claims; ensure that employers are held accountable when they violate the law; and implement pending legislation to protect workers from retaliation when they stand up for their rights.
- We also need **funding for a Worker Justice Fund and Mental Health Fund** to provide financial support when workers lose their jobs due to illegal retaliation or suffer from the emotional and mental health consequences of workplace abuse. We want every worker and employer in Philadelphia to know their rights and know that filing a complaint with OWP will get them the immediate relief they need.



FRONTLINE CITY SERVICES



GREG HARLING

AFSCME DC 47 Local 2187
Executive Board member

*“Making our parks and recreation centers run requires us to play the role of a magician. We have to be a fundraiser, coach, counselor, and program manager in order to piece together services for the kids that depend on our facilities, many who are struggling with lower reading levels and behavioral needs. Most of us do this job as a labor of love, **we grew up in these playgrounds, and we know we’re the first point of contact with the City for our community.** We need more staffing and standard programmatic budgets across all facilities so we don’t have to be magicians to get the job done.”*

*“Since the 2008 recession, our communities have pushed for full funding for vital services like parks, recreation centers and libraries. Libraries and recreation centers help us cope with the world we are trying to survive in. They are violence prevention spaces, language learning centers and community lifelines. For years now, **community members and library workers have fought to get more funding for our libraries,** and now we’re slowly seeing the impact – weekend hours in many branches and more hiring happening. We need to continue this trend, so that library workers are paid living wages and every Philadelphian can visit a library on the weekends.”*



ERME MAULA

Friends of the Whitman Library
and South Philly resident

WE CAN AFFORD TO FULLY FUND OUR VISION FOR THRIVING PARKS, RECREATION CENTERS, AND LIBRARIES ACROSS ALL OF PHILADELPHIA, NOT JUST THE WEALTHIEST NEIGHBORHOODS. WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE:

ARE WE GIVING CORPORATIONS MORE BUSINESS TAX BREAKS?



ARE WE ENSURING THAT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACROSS THE CITY HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE PLACES AND HEALTHY ACTIVITIES?

The State of Our Frontline City Services:

- **Uneven Recovery:** After the 2008 financial collapse, our frontline city services—parks, recreation centers and libraries—were the hardest hit by the City’s budget and staffing cuts. Over the last several years, workers and community members fought to win fully open and staffed spaces, especially as gun violence rates increased. But the recovery has been unequal. Sites in lower-income neighborhoods are still unable to fundraise the additional income needed to operate fully.
- **Outdated Facilities & Wages:** Almost every rec center and library needs tens of millions of dollars of physical repairs to keep them open, safe and operational. City workers report that current wages, especially for Black and Brown workers, keep staff living in poverty.
- Our Parks and Recreation services are **underfunded,²⁰ understaffed, and riddled with administrative delays** that stop funding from reaching our community.
 - P&R staff report that the department has **over 100 vacancies** as of March 2024, a product of chronic underfunding, an inefficient hiring process, and low wages.
- The staff shortage means a single worker is left to run a large facility on their own—even at night. This is **dangerous for staff; multiple city workers have been killed by gun violence while on the job.²¹**
- P&R sites don’t have reliable enough city funding to offer comprehensive programming, like universal free sports leagues for our youth.
- P&R depends on seasonal and part-time work that leaves community members in a cycle of poverty without opportunities for stable, living wage jobs.
- **City funding for our libraries is finally back to where it was before the Great Recession.** Library workers and community leaders fought hard to get funding that allows for increased weekend hours, funded programming, and money for books and other materials. **But there’s still more we can do:**
 - Critical workers, like Municipal Guards and Library Assistants, still make poverty wages.
 - All 54 branches still experience closures not only due to staffing shortages, but infrastructure problems, like dysfunctional HVAC systems, roofs, and electrical work.

Our Vision for a Thriving City:

- Our parks, recreation centers, and libraries are the frontline that connects our communities to resources and city services. All the neighborhoods we serve across the City deserve to be fully-funded and fully-staffed. Our frontline facilities need:
 - **An immediate \$25 million increase for the staffing and operation costs of parks and recreation centers.**
 - **Full staffing.** A five-person staffing minimum to keep each recreation facility safe and operational. Sustainable staffing to ensure library services are available on Saturdays, without needing to compensate with unexpected midweek closures.
 - **Robust raises** for workers and **universal full-time employment**, so no city worker lives in poverty.
- **Thousands of dollars in standardized program funding** for every site to ensure free and equitable access to recreation for all youth.
- **On-site social workers, relational aides, and municipal guards** at our parks and rec centers who can intake and refer the community to treatment plans and other city services.
- A **streamlined hiring process** to fill vacancies.
- **Urgent physical repairs** to all recreation centers, parks and library branches that have been neglected during decades of underfunding. Let’s increase funding to scale up and increase the pace of the Rebuild program.
- A teen, adult, and children’s **librarian at every site.**

RENTER'S RIGHTS



EDEN GIBSON

*“My home has had a sewage issue since I moved in in 2018 that my landlord kept denying for years. Finally, I had L&I [Department of Licenses and Inspections] come out and they gave my landlord a 30 day notice to fix the issue and she finally did something about it. She only did a patch job, but **L&I put the pressure on her to do something that she otherwise wouldn't have done.** The city keeps funding unnecessary things like a new walkway at Penn's Landing, when they could be using that money to hire more L&I workers to help renters like me get things fixed in their homes rather than being forced to move out.”*

*“The City isn't hiring enough people. My daughters house needs to be gutted and then done over after it caught fire in 2019. We have water damage, rodents, and ceiling leaks that the landlord needs to fix by redoing the roof and walls. When I call L&I, it takes longer than 20 days for someone to come out and the issues don't get fixed. The **City needs to fully staff L&I,** and I'm sure many renters and people who have had a history of problems with their landlords would want to apply and get trained on how to force landlords to fix the problems.”*



TAWANDA WALLS

WE CAN AFFORD TO FULLY FUND OUR VISION FOR SAFE, LIVABLE HOMES ACROSS PHILADELPHIA. WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE:

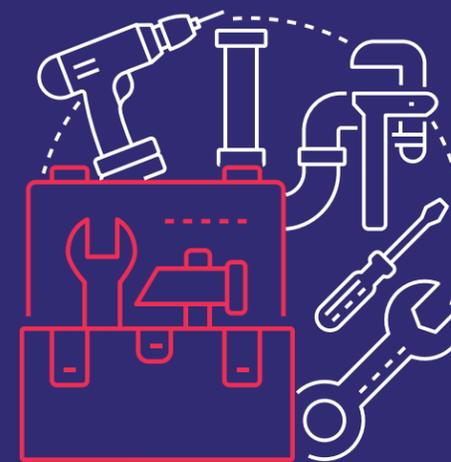
ARE WE GIVING CORPORATIONS MORE BUSINESS TAX BREAKS?

OR

ARE WE ENSURING THAT PHILADELPHIANS HAVE THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO MAINTAIN SAFE, HABITABLE HOMES?

Our Housing Quality Crisis:

- Approximately 342,000 households or **49% of Philadelphians are renters.**²² More than **40% of Philadelphia rental properties needed home repairs** in 2019, and the need is greater in units occupied by households with incomes below the poverty line.²³
- Unlike some other cities, Philadelphia has no program for regularly inspecting rental properties. Instead, it inspects only in response to tenants' complaints resulting in **only 7% of rental units being inspected every year.**²⁴
- Renters United members are living in **unsafe and unhealthy** housing conditions:
 - falling ceilings
 - leaking roofs
 - no heat
 - sinking floors
 - sewage in sinks
 - mold
 - pest infestations
 - missing smoke detectors
 - faulty electric wiring
 - landlords engaging in unlawful self-help eviction practices like shutting off utilities and cutting a water pipe.



Our Vision for Safe, Affordable Housing

- We envision a City where the idea that housing is a human right is common sense. Where renters have access to healthy, affordable, and stable housing without threat of displacement. Where neighborhoods birth unity and unleash human potential. Where Philadelphians continuously organize through self-governance to defend this vision.
- To achieve this vision we need:
 - The Department of Licenses & Inspections needs to **proactively inspect all properties** owned by large or corporate landlords annually.
 - To create an **Anti-Displacement Fund** and increase funding for city repair programs and alternative housing for renters at risk of displacement due to landlord negligence.
 - To **enforce harsher consequences for corporate or large landlords** who neglect their properties and have repeat violations.
 - To establish a **Renter Advisory Board** to provide regular community oversight of L&I.
 - To create **permanently affordable community-controlled housing** by transferring properties from repeated non-compliant corporate owners to renters or a community land trust.

HOW WE FUND OUR VISION

MORE THAN
\$200 M



Tax the Rich:

We know what our communities need and we know how to fund those needs. We live in the richest region in our state, in the richest country in the world. Our region is home to 13 Fortune 500 companies,²⁵ ten billionaires,²⁶ and the biggest concentration of millionaires in the state.²⁷ Now is the time to require the very wealthiest Philadelphians—billionaires, mega-corporations, developers, and mega nonprofits—pay what they owe, so our city can thrive.

**NOW IS THE TIME
TO REQUIRE THE
VERY WEALTHIEST
PHILADELPHIANS PAY
WHAT THEY OWE, SO
OUR CITY CAN THRIVE.**

Stop Tax Giveaways to Big Businesses:

- For the past thirty years, City Hall has cut the wage and business tax using the principles of trickle-down economics, in which giving money to already-wealthy individuals and businesses will supposedly eventually benefit us all. In reality, **mega-corporations have received tax giveaways, while the rest of us have gotten non-stop cuts to vital city services.**
- City Hall needs to stop succumbing to the Chamber of Commerce's annual attempts to take tax dollars.

Wealth Tax:

- We need the Mayor and City Council to **reinstate a Wealth Tax** on individual and corporate holdings of stocks and bonds (excluding retirement accounts).²⁸
- A wealth tax could raise **more than \$200 million per year** in revenues for the City.²⁹
- This tax would primarily affect the wealthiest Philadelphians, since families in the top 10% of incomes hold 70% of the value of all stocks.³⁰

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs):

- The Mayor and City Council should champion legislation to collect Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs) from universities like UPenn, Drexel, and Jefferson.³¹
- UPenn is **the largest private landowner in the entire city**, but their non-profit status exempts them from having to pay property taxes.
- We demand these wealthy non-profits pay **40% of the value of forgone property taxes.**

Get Federal and State Money:

While we demand full funding locally, the state and federal governments should also pay what they owe to our city. Philadelphia is the economic engine of our state and it's time for Pennsylvania to fully fund our city and **end the racist relationship between the state legislature and Philadelphia.** For the past few years, Philadelphia has relied on federal pandemic relief funding, which will run out in 2025. We need our city and local institutions to be ready to apply for federal funding from the Inflation Reduction Act—a huge opportunity to invest in green and healthy infrastructure.³²



Inflation Reduction Act Funding:

- Municipalities, colleges, and schools across the country are applying for IRA grants and 'direct pay' subsidies from the federal government to make our buildings more energy efficient, transition to solar energy, and remedy air quality. These grants can create cost savings that can be reinvested into our residents, students, and staff—and provide necessary green and healthy facility **updates for libraries and recreation centers.**³³
- The Community College of Philadelphia needs to establish a task force that can **establish climate and community action plans and apply for applicable IRA grants** that could address CCP's facilities concerns, and save energy costs through investments in renewables.

Abolish the Uniformity Clause:

- Pennsylvania is one of only eleven states in the country that **protects billionaires from paying higher taxes than poor people** through a flat rate income tax structure.³⁴ Pennsylvania's uniformity clause, a law that has its origins in slavery,³⁵ enshrines this tax structure in the state constitution, making it difficult to change.
- Philadelphia's elected officials should push state lawmakers to abolish the uniformity clause so we can truly **protect working people and small businesses** while demanding the ultra rich pay what they owe.

**WE CAN AFFORD TO FULLY FUND OUR VISION.
WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE:**

**ARE WE GIVING CORPORATIONS
MORE BUSINESS TAX BREAKS?**

OR

**ARE WE GOING TO FUND A PHILLY
THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE?**

Endnotes

- 1 "Turning the Tide of Tax Cuts: We Need Fully Funded Public Services." Tax the Rich PHL. June 13, 2022. <https://taxtherichphl.org/2022/06/13/turning-the-tide-of-tax-cuts/>. The graph is based on Tax the Rich PHL's original analysis of tax rates over time as they appear in the Philadelphia Code, which can be found here: https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/philadelphia/latest/philadelphia_pa/0-0-0-266407.
- 2 Gauthier, Jamie, and Kendra Brooks. "COUNCILMEMBERS BROOKS AND GAUTHIER OPPOSE TAX CUTS THAT THREATEN CITY SERVICES." Philadelphia City Council. June 20, 2023. <https://phlcouncil.com/councilmembers-brooks-and-gauthier-oppose-tax-cuts-that-threaten-city-services/>.
- 3 "Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia Form 990." ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer. June 30, 2022. <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/230969030/202300609349301100/full>.
- 4 "Philly Power Research." May 27, 2021. <https://twitter.com/ResearchPhilly/status/1398030457967632387>.
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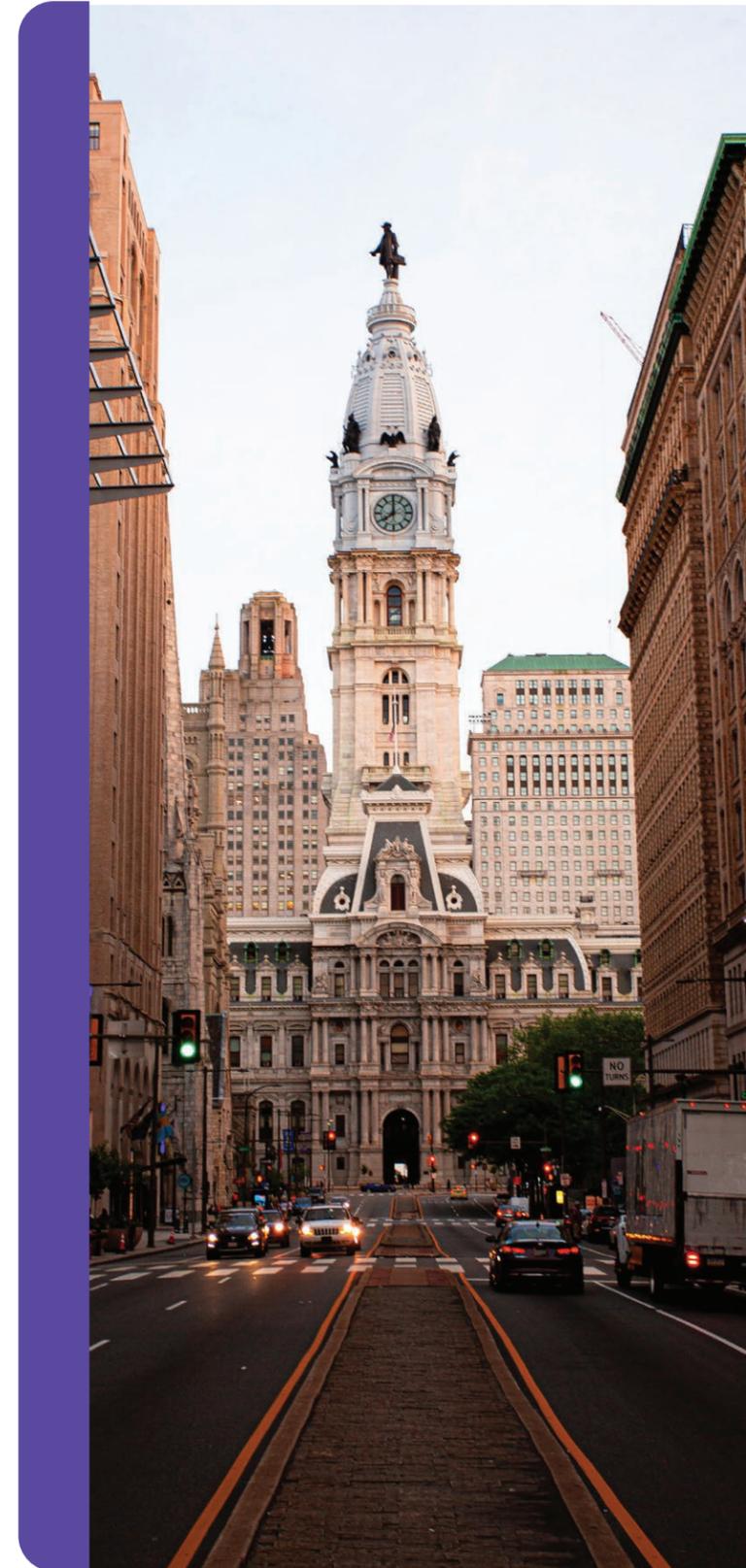


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