

# BETTER CHOICES FOR PENNSYLVANIA

## PRINCIPLES

MARCH 2010

### **Purpose:**

To bring together individuals, organizations and coalitions working for a state budget that funds essential public services, invests in the future, and has a fair and stable revenue structure.

### **Statement of principles:**

It is the legal and moral duty of Pennsylvania government, state and local, to efficiently deliver essential, quality services to Pennsylvanians. All Pennsylvanians – children, families, business owners, residential taxpayers, senior citizens, and others – benefit from this necessary government infrastructure.

Despite unprecedented economic and budget challenges, we have the opportunity to build a better and more prosperous state. To do so requires appropriate funding for education, health care and services to vulnerable Pennsylvanians, and qualified individuals at the state and local level to provide those services.

We now have the chance to take action that keeps Pennsylvania looking forward, action that encourages and maintains the state's long-term fiscal well-being. By investing in our families, in our resources, and in our existing assets, we will guide our state into renewed prosperity.

Coalition members will work in support of the following:

- **A balanced approach to the state budget shortfall.** Long-term revenue solutions must be considered instead of relying only on cuts to services. A balanced approach will improve efficiency, promote accountability, protect families and pave a faster and more sustainable path to prosperity.
- **A state budget that builds upon sound public investments.** We must maintain strategic public investments in education, health care, transportation, natural resources and human services that make our state a desirable place to live and create a healthy climate for economic growth. The economic crisis should not cause Pennsylvania to lose ground on our gains in education and the economy.
- **A state budget that addresses the immediate crisis *and* prepares for the future.** Policymakers must lay the foundation for continued prosperity by adopting long-term strategies and lasting solutions. Responsible action today can avert future crises and provide stable funding that grows in tandem with need.
- **A state budget that includes productive, stable revenue that reflect today's economy.** We must reform our outdated revenue system to ensure Pennsylvania has the resources to meet current needs and to invest in our future. A fair and stable taxation structure will ensure all individuals and businesses pay their fair share and provide sustainable, accountable revenue for critical government infrastructure – in good times and in bad.

**Participation:** Individuals, groups and coalitions that adopt the coalition principles and support its policy goals.

**Structure:** Two co-chairs and a 10 member steering committee. Biweekly communication.

# YES, SIGN US UP FOR THE BETTER CHOICES FOR PENNSYLVANIA COALITION

<b>Name of Organization (as you would like it listed on materials):</b>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	
<b>Mailing Address including City, State and Zip:</b>	
<b>Office Phone:</b>	<b>Cell Phone:</b>
<b>Fax:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
<b>County(ies):</b>	
<b>Website:</b>	

PLEASE RETURN TO:

PENNSYLVANIA BUDGET AND POLICY CENTER  
412 NORTH THIRD ST  
HARRISBURG, PA 17101  
PHONE: 717-255-7156

**BY FAX: 717-255-7193**

**BY EMAIL: [info@pennbpc.org](mailto:info@pennbpc.org)**