



University of Pittsburgh

Institute of Politics

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Dear Colleague:

In the next several years, local governments in Pennsylvania will face daunting fiscal challenges. Federal stimulus activity will most likely expire in 2011. Pension obligations are projected to balloon for all levels of government. Federal and state budgets will continue to face tight constraints, and substantial cuts are all but certain. Local governments in the Commonwealth will have to carefully make difficult choices in extraordinary circumstances. What options will be available to cut appropriate expenditures, secure adequate revenues, and in some cases rethink how services are being provided?

In an effort to facilitate thoughtful and comprehensive discussion of local government challenges and possible methods of confronting them, we, on behalf of the Institute of Politics and The Pittsburgh Foundation, would like to invite you to a forum entitled *The Impact of Local Government Revenue Losses and Possible Responses*, to be held on July 16, 2010 at the University Club in Oakland. As you will see from the attached draft agenda, the program will begin at 8:00 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast and conclude at 12:00 p.m.

The program will begin with a national perspective on local government challenges and opportunities provided by Nicholas Johnson, Director of the State Fiscal Project at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Senator Jay Costa, the Minority Chair of the state Senate Appropriations Committee, will then discuss our state's fiscal condition and how ongoing budget difficulties may affect local government. Finally, a panel of local government representatives will respond to the federal and state presentations with observations on approaching struggles and possible strategies for not only surviving but for strengthening local government effectiveness in Pennsylvania.

It is our hope that participants will be exposed to a broad array of perspectives and will engage in a constructive dialogue that will benefit local government managers and elected officials, state legislators, civic leaders, and other policymakers. While the forum is free and open to the general public, advance registration is required. Please indicate your willingness to attend by registering online at www.iop.pitt.edu/governance by July 7th.

Thank you for your interest in this program, and we look forward to seeing you on July 16th. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Institute at 412-624-1837.

Sincerely,

Dan Frankel
Member
PA House of Representatives

Fred Thieman
President
The Buhl Foundation

Grant Oliphant
President & CEO
The Pittsburgh Foundation