

## **Our Call to Action:**

In the midst of a global pandemic and economic crisis with immense hardship placed on families across Pennsylvania, we know the years to come need to be years of recovery. Since March 2020, COVID-19 has reinforced fault lines in our state: **those who have been able to weather the pandemic with jobs, healthcare, food, and shelter; and those who have not.** A **disproportionate number of people most impacted by the crisis are Black, Latinx, women, immigrants, and poor.** Many of us who are struggling during the pandemic were already living on a precarious edge: working jobs that pay less than a living wage, having little access to healthcare, facing housing insecurity, food insecurity, and poor access to the internet which increasingly is essential for work, schooling, and even access to vaccination. We must invest in a just recovery that centers the needs of our families, our people, and our communities.

As a Commonwealth, we need to reject austerity, wasteful spending and unstable revenue streams. We are guided by the urgent need to invest in people over big corporations. We believe any budget must focus on working people across the state and the systems and programs that can support workers to recuperate from this devastating pandemic that has touched all corners of our state,: urban, rural, and suburban. In line with the needs of the people, our priorities include education, housing, health, environment and mass transportation. A budget must invest heavily in a full recovery for *all* Pennsylvanians: their employment, education, housing and well being. When working people thrive it leads to greater economic growth and prosperity for all of us. A budget is a register of the morals of its time; it is a statement of our values and priorities. Public trust in our state government depends on our ability to take care of our people in the time of their greatest need. There is a lot in the Governor's budget we fully support. The People's Budget project will provide a broad, long term vision for Pennsylvania that lifts up working people and brings our voices into the budget process.

To that end, we are announcing our intent to propose a <u>People's Budget for</u> <u>Pennsylvania</u>.

We invite legislators, organizations, community leaders, stakeholders, and neighbors across the commonwealth to join us to craft a People's Budget for Pennsylvania.



We The People- PA

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