

## **Coalition for Community Investment**

### **Statement of Principles to Guide Decisions on D.C. Budget**

The District of Columbia faces severe economic challenges. Declining revenues have already led to the adoption of significant budget cuts in the Fiscal Year 2009 budget. The cuts affect a wide range of programs, including parks, public safety, and transportation. However, they will fall especially hard on low-income families due to reduced funding for affordable housing, homeless services, health care, and income supports.

The health and prosperity of our city depend on public investments that expand economic opportunity in our neighborhoods and support families. In these difficult times for our economy and for our citizens, careful planning is needed to make sure we can continue to meet these goals.

We, the undersigned, represent local businesses, local congregations, nonprofit organizations and advocacy organizations. We encourage city leaders to partner with concerned citizens to identify a prudent and balanced approach to managing the city's fiscal crisis.

We, therefore, submit the following principles to guide further decision-making on the D.C. budget.

**Stimulate local economic recovery.** The D.C. budget plays an important role in the local economy. Widespread evidence indicates that public investments that support low-income individuals and families stimulate economic recovery because beneficiaries spend the money quickly and locally. Support for human capital development, the environment, and infrastructure will help D.C. build living-wage jobs, healthy communities, and a thriving business climate.

Maintaining funding for vital public structures in D.C. is especially critical now. Public investments in the midst of a recession can support the economy and prevent economic problems from getting worse.

**Avoid cutbacks that unintentionally increase costs.** Safety net programs help provide stability for D.C. families and individuals who are already struggling with stagnant, low wages, layoffs and rising food, energy, medical and housing costs during this economic downturn. Cutbacks in such programs can prove to be "penny wise and pound foolish" by increasing hardship, reducing residents' buying power, and creating the need for more costly emergency services.

**Include sensible revenue expansions.** Program cuts are not the only way to balance a budget. Consideration of responsible revenue enhancements and D.C.'s rainy day fund should be part of the city's approach. The economic downturn offers an opportunity to review D.C.'s revenue system and identify changes that would both raise revenue and improve our tax structure.

**Operate collaboratively, transparently and inclusively.** The District budget has significant impacts on the local economy, the daily lives of residents and the inclusiveness and vitality of our city. Therefore, the Mayor, the City Council and the public must work together to achieve commonsense solutions that reflect our community values. District officials must address budget shortfalls in a timely manner, but not at the expense of open, informed decision-making. In particular, the process for addressing budget deficits should give interested community members complete information on proposed options and sufficient time for public response.

Working together, D.C. residents and city leaders can use their collective practical know-how, technical expertise and experience to chart a path through this financial crisis, by investing in the long-term strength of our families, our economy, and our communities.

## Budget Balancing Statement of Principles Endorsements

### Academic

Center for Inspired Teaching  
DC Law Students in Court Program  
Teaching for Change  
UDC School of Law

### Businesses

3rd Point International (Ward 1)  
Amsterdam Falafelshop (Ward 1)  
Ben's Chili Bowl (Ward 1)  
Big Monkey Comics (Ward 2)  
Boundless Yoga (Ward 2)  
Busboy's and Poets (Ward 1)  
City Living Source (Ward 1)  
D.C. Access (Ward 6)  
Dogs by Day (Ward 2)  
Dos Gringos Café (Ward 1)  
FRESHFARM Markets (Ward 1)  
Garden District (Ward 1)  
Greater Goods (Ward 1)  
Green Pets (Ward 2)  
Green Room Speakers (Ward 4)  
Harkness Design (Ward 1)  
Home Slice, LLC (Wards 1,2,3,4,7,8)  
Hoopla EcoBoutique (Ward 1)  
Inscape Studio (Ward 1)  
Island Infusions LLC (Ward 4)  
ITF Consulting, Inc. (Ward 2)  
Joint Concepts, Inc. (Ward 1)  
Junk in the Trunk Removal Services (Ward 5)  
Logan Hardware (Wards 2, 6)  
Logan's Antiques (Ward 1)  
Mid City Embroidery (Ward 2)  
Mt. Pleasant Main Street (Ward 1)  
Next Door (Ward 1)  
NextGen Persuasion, LLC (Ward 1)  
Open City (Ward 3)  
Oromo Center Inc. (Ward 4)  
Pfeiffer's Hardware (Ward 1)  
Politics and Prose (Ward 3)  
Potter's House (Ward 1)  
Urban Referrals Service (Ward 1)  
Schrayer and Associates, Inc. (Ward 2)  
Steen Enterprises (Ward 3)  
The 7th Street Garden (Ward 2)  
The Diner (Ward 1)  
The Printer (Ward 1)  
TORO MATA - The Art of Peru (Ward 1)

### Lenders

American Housing Opportunity Fund (Ward 4)  
Cornerstone, Inc.  
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)  
Manna Mortgage  
Self-Help

### Developers

Community Preservation and Dev. Corp.  
Community-Vision Consultants  
DC Habitat for Humanity  
National Housing Trust  
Rinker and Associates

### Faith Community

Covenant Baptist Church (Ward 8)  
D.C. Catholic Conference  
First Trinity Lutheran Church (Ward 6)  
Washington Interfaith Network

### Legal & Advocacy

Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center  
Children's Law Center  
D.C. Action for Children  
D.C. Alliance of Youth Advocates  
D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
D.C. Coalition on Long Term Care  
DC Employment Justice Center  
D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute  
D.C. Hunger Solutions  
D.C. Jobs Council  
D. C. Jobs with Justice  
D.C. Learns  
DC Women's Agenda  
Drug Policy Alliance DC Metro Project  
Empower D.C.  
Gray Panthers of Metropolitan Washington  
Legal Aid Society of DC  
Legal Counsel for the Elderly  
Our Children, Our Community  
ONE D.C.  
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities  
Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless  
We Are Family  
Wider Opportunities for Women  
Women Empowered Against Violence

### Labor

Community Services Agency of the Metro Washington  
Council AFL-CIO  
SEIU Local 32BJ

### Health

Lupus Foundation of Greater Washington  
Unity Health Care, Inc.  
Washington Public Health Association, GWU SPHHS

### Political

DC Statehood Green Party

**Environmental**

Alliance for Healthy Homes  
Anacostia Watershed Society  
DC Environmental Network  
Clean Water Action  
Coalition for Smarter Growth  
Friends of the Earth  
Institute for Local Self-Reliance  
Parents for Nontoxic Alternatives  
Washington Area Bicyclist Association  
Washington Parks & People  
Wholeness for Humanity

**Social Service**

Academy of Hope  
Affordable Behavioral Consultants, Inc.  
Ayuda (Ward 1)  
Beacon House (Ward 5)  
Bread for the City  
Capital Area Asset Builders  
Capital Area Food Bank  
Catholic Charities  
Christian Communities Group Homes (Ward 5)  
Community of Hope  
Covenant Full Potential Conversation Center (Ward 8)  
Covenant House Washington  
D.C. Central Kitchen (Ward 6)  
DC Rape Crisis Center  
East River Family Strengthening Collaborative, Inc.  
(Ward 7)  
Emmaus Services for the Aging (Ward 2)  
Ethiopian Community Center, Inc. (Ward 4)  
Father McKenna Center  
Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center (Ward 5)  
Girls Incorporated of the Washington, DC  
Metropolitan Area  
Greater DC Cares  
Green Door (Ward 2)  
Homeless Children's Playtime Project  
Housing Counseling Services, Inc.  
La Clínica del Pueblo (Ward 1)  
Language ETC  
Little Lights Urban Ministries (Ward 6)  
Manna Inc. (Ward 5)  
Marshall Heights Community Dev. Organization  
(Ward 7)  
Mary's Center  
Multicultural Community Service (Ward 1)  
N Street Village  
National Student Partnerships, D.C. Office  
Neighbors' Consejo (Ward 1)  
New Endeavors by Women  
Pathways to Housing DC  
Perry School Community Services Center (Ward 6)  
Positive Force  
Sasha Bruce  
SOME, Inc. (So Others Might Eat)  
The Arc of the District of Columbia, Inc.  
Vietnamese-American Community Service Center

**Membership Organizations**

D.C. Behavioral Health Association  
D.C. Primary Care Association  
Center for Nonprofit Advancement  
Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic  
Development  
DC ACORN  
D.C. Language Access Coalition  
Fair Budget Coalition  
Jews United for Justice  
Latino Economic Development Corporation  
Latino Federation of Greater Washington  
Mount Pleasant Business Association  
National Association of Social Workers—Metro D.C.  
Chapter  
Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington

**Individuals**

Alba Bautista (Ward 1)  
Marta Beresin, Esq. (Ward 3)  
Robert C. Bobb  
Shelley Broderick, Esq.,  
Carol A Casperson (Ward 8)  
Mollie Churchill (Ward 2)  
David Gochman, Esq.  
Elinor Hart (Ward 1)  
Wes Heppler, Esq.  
Laura E. Jordan, Esq.(Ward 4)  
Chris Orvin (Ward 1)  
Luke W. Reynolds, Esq.  
Marcus Robinson (Ward 5)  
Alexander Salvador (Ward 1)  
Bill Scher (Ward 3)  
Suzanne Tarlov (Ward 2)  
Karen Williamson (Ward 2)