



## WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITIES

The *Coalition for Sustainable Communities* is a growing coalition of chambers of commerce, local government associations and other business, community and municipal leaders all committed to helping Pennsylvania's rural, suburban and urban communities address growing economic and financial challenges.

Many of us worked successfully together in recent years to streamline a highly fragmented and inefficient local earned income tax collection system and to simplify municipal merger and consolidation.

## OUR SHARED GOAL: ECONOMICALLY COMPETITIVE AND FINANCIALLY VIABLE MUNICIPALITIES

The *Coalition for Sustainable Communities* is building on past successes and working with municipal officials and stakeholders to set new priorities for 2013 and beyond. We aim to provide municipalities with the tools necessary to address the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

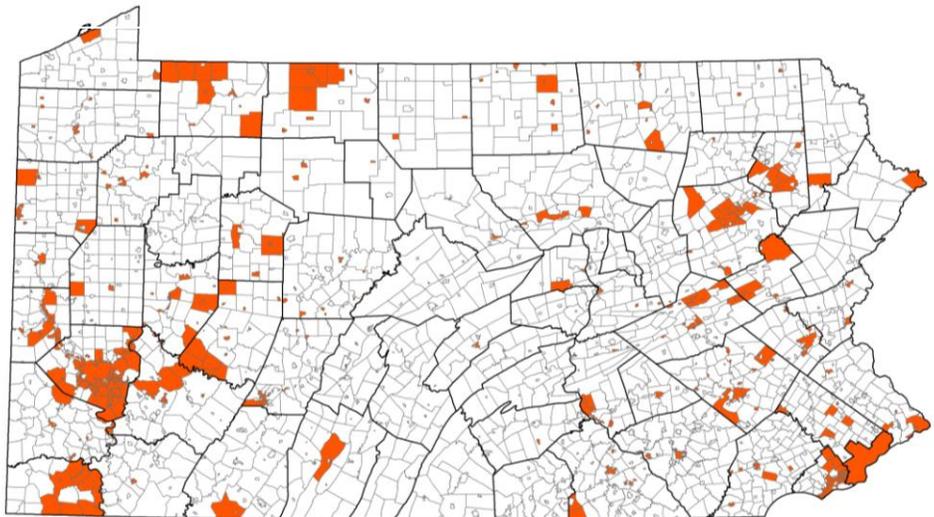
## MUNICIPAL CHALLENGES

Pennsylvania's 2,562 municipal governments operate under outdated, inflexible and uncompetitive state laws and policies that often undermine their financial stability.

The uncontrolled costs associated with municipal pensions, binding arbitration decisions, and unfunded mandates, coupled with an obsolete revenue structure create an unsustainable situation for even the best fiscally-managed municipalities.

Financial stress is not just a city problem – financially stressed communities are found in nearly every county in Pennsylvania.

According to a 2011 Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh study, municipal financial stress of all types is widespread and increasing.



PELGP, August 2012

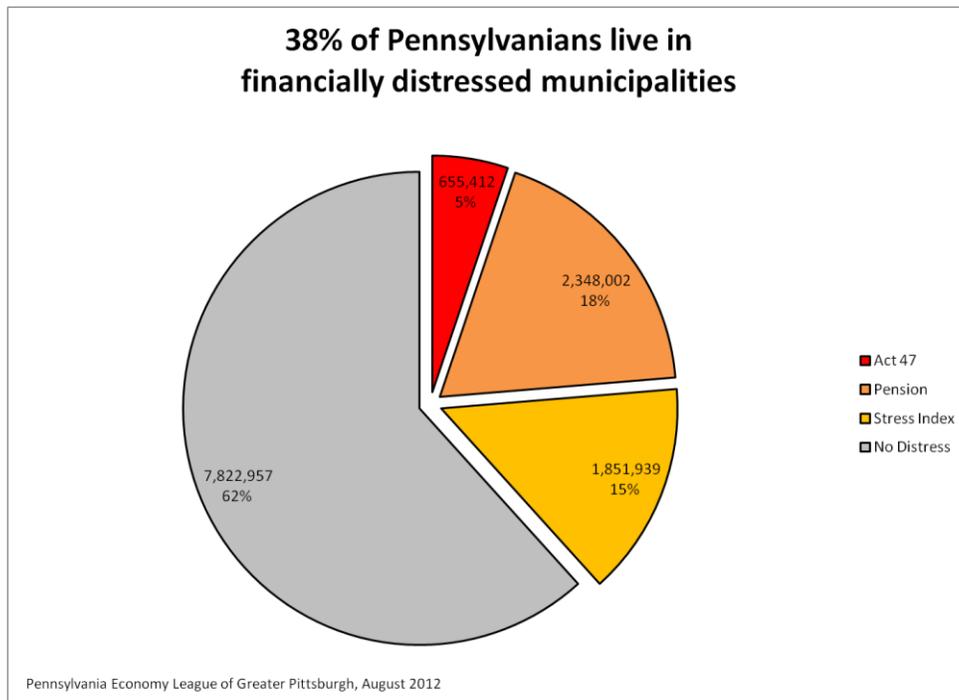
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## IT'S TIME FOR HARD WORK AND POLITICAL COURAGE

Thriving communities are essential for a prosperous state and a healthy business environment. That's why the business community is part of this coalition - they understand that our collective success is inextricably linked to that of our communities.

The challenges that face the Commonwealth's municipalities are not insurmountable, but correcting them will take hard work and political courage.

The *Coalition for Sustainable Communities* intends to partner with all willing stakeholders to address the long-term structural changes which are necessary to avoid statewide, municipal failure and fiscal calamity.



## COALITION MEMBERS

*Allegheny Conference on Community Development • Allegheny Valley Chamber of Commerce • Blair County Chamber of Commerce • Clinton County Economic Partnership • County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania • Delaware County Chamber of Commerce • Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership • Greater Johnstown Cambria County Chamber of Commerce • Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce • Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce • Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce • Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce • Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce • Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce • Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC • Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce • Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce • Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce • Mon Valley Progress Council • Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce • Pennsylvania Business Council • Pennsylvania Chamber of Business & Industry • Pennsylvania Economy League of Central Pennsylvania • Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Philadelphia • Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh • Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants • Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association • Pennsylvania Municipal League • Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners • Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors • Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce • Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce • Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce • York County Chamber of Commerce...and growing!*