



## WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITIES

Fiscally sustainable communities are the backbone of a healthy Commonwealth. The *Coalition for Sustainable Communities* is an active coalition of chambers of commerce, local government associations and other business, community and municipal leaders committed to correcting the growing economic and financial challenges facing Pennsylvania's communities – rural, suburban and urban.

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

Since 2011, the *Coalition for Sustainable Communities* has been working to reform two of the most significant cost drivers in municipal budgets -- Act 111 and municipal pensions. These laws directly impact public safety costs which can easily exceed half of a municipal budget leaving little else for economic development and quality of life initiatives.

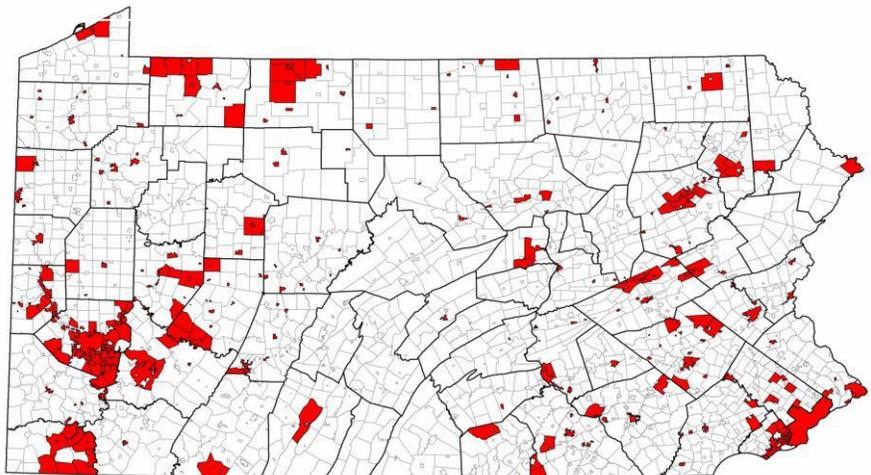
## MUNICIPAL CHALLENGES

Pennsylvania's 2,562 municipal governments operate under outdated, inflexible and uncompetitive state laws and policies that often undermine their financial stability.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 Southwest study, municipal financial stress of all types is widespread and increasing.



Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh - March 30, 2012

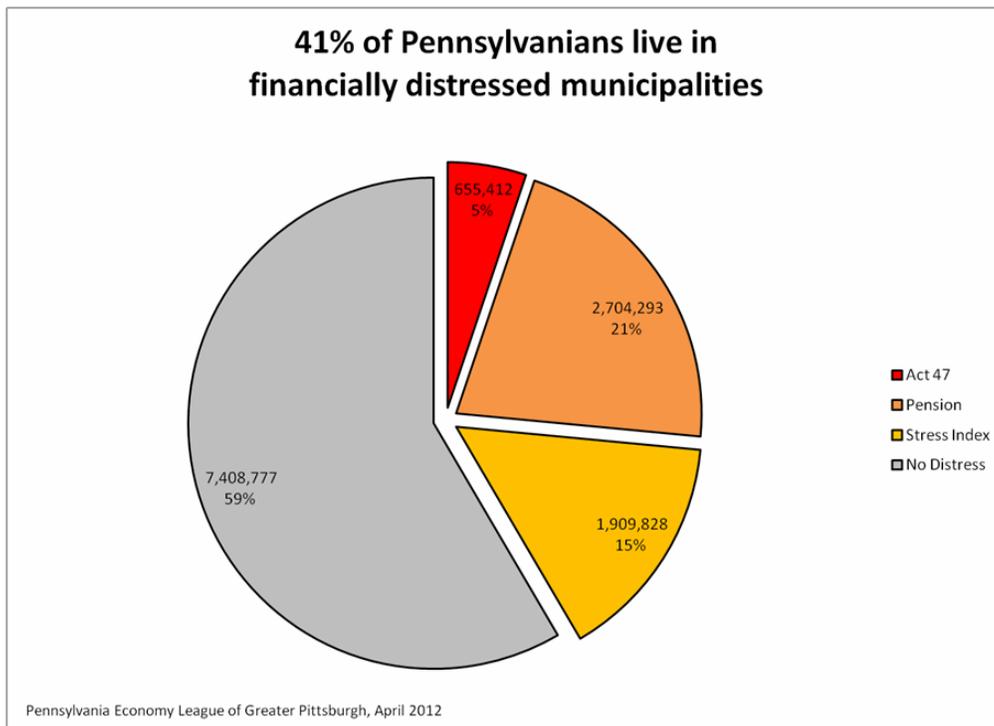
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## IT'S TIME FOR HARD WORK AND POLITICAL COURAGE

Thriving communities are essential for a prosperous Commonwealth and a healthy business environment. That's why the business community is an important partner in the 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* will partner with all stakeholders willing to address the long-term structural changes which are necessary to avoid statewide municipal fiscal distress.



**CSC MEMBERS:** *Allegheny Conference on Community Development • Blair County Chamber of Commerce • Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry • Clinton County Economic Partnership • County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania • Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce • Greater Reading Chamber and Economic Development Corporation • Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce • Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC • Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce • Indiana County Chamber of Commerce • Johnstown Chamber of Commerce • Lancaster City Alliance • Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry • Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce • Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce • Pennsylvania Chamber of Business & Industry • Pennsylvania Economy League of Central PA • Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Philadelphia • Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh • Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants • Pennsylvania Municipal League • Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners • Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors • Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce • Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce • The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia • The Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce • Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce • Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce • York County Economic Alliance (COC & Economic Development Corp.)*