

News Release

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For Immediate Release

**Involved Citizens Outline Blueprint
To Help Connecticut Work Toward “Prosperity for All”**

Hartford, CT, February 3, 2009 --- A number of civically involved citizens from business, human services and labor unions have participated in a working group, which has outlined a blueprint for Connecticut’s future called *Prosperity for All*. The paper offers a vision to which the state can aspire and a strategic plan to make that vision a reality.

According to group member Bill Cibes, “Authors of this blueprint believe that citizens can come together to solve our shared problems. We think that people from all walks of life can agree that the overarching long-term goal for Connecticut should be to achieve a prosperous future. Reaching that goal depends on building an economy that is fully competitive in the global marketplace. Our contribution has been to identify the actions that must be taken to make competitiveness possible.”

Copies of *Prosperity for All: A Blueprint for Connecticut’s Future* and a supplemental paper written to address the state’s more immediate difficulties, called *Act Now: Balance the Budget and Prepare for the Future*, will be distributed to Connecticut legislators and policy decision makers in early February. Electronic versions are already available online at www.ctblueprint.org.

While *Prosperity for All* outlines a long-term approach to securing sustainable prosperity, Cibes observed, “We recognized that we face the challenge of an immediate fiscal crisis, with budget deficits of major magnitude over the next three fiscal years, which is why we also developed *Act Now*. We offer alternative options to balance the budget with significant but not draconian cuts, while preserving the building blocks of future prosperity.”

Act Now outlines actions for the state through fiscal year 2011 that:

- Address Connecticut’s underlying weaknesses by investing in the foundations for future economic competitiveness;
- Spare our most vulnerable residents from the most severe consequences of these difficult times; and
- Fairly share the burden of the increased taxes that will inevitably be required.

According to Cibes, Connecticut “must be willing to make the right choices, as well as the tough ones. Most importantly, we need to see these times as transformational, not temporary. Our choices must be about fundamentals, not phantom fixes. This is why the Blueprint Coalition underscores the importance of keeping an eye toward the future while Connecticut makes its short-term budget decisions.”

Public-spirited citizens of Connecticut are invited to join or contact the Blueprint Coalition through the website. To read *Prosperity for All: A Blueprint for Connecticut's Future* and *Act Now: Balance the Budget and Prepare for the Future* visit www.ctblueprint.org.

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