



STATE INNOVATION EXCHANGE

## The Progressive Economic Blueprint for the States

*A vision for state legislative action to spur economic growth and prosperity for middle- and working-class families.*

It is time for progressives to think differently about how we strategically engage and govern in this country, and that shift should begin not from Washington, but at the state and local level – the true laboratories of democracy that are closest to American workers and their families.

The State Innovation Exchange's Progressive Economic Blueprint for the States is a joint vision of hundreds of state lawmakers, policy experts, and leaders of the progressive movement who believe that supporting working families through state-level policies should be a key element in resisting President-elect Trump's agenda.

Starting with the first 100 days of a Trump administration – as 2017 legislative sessions convene in the states – elected officials and progressive leaders will put forth policies that better respond to the needs of all Americans. While each state and legislative chamber is different, this blueprint serves as a guide for all state policymakers to be laser-focused on creating economic opportunity for working families, for making stronger and smarter investments for local communities, and leveling the playing field to put the American worker first.

### The Blueprint

#### Ensuring Economic Opportunity for All Americans

##### *Economic Growth*

- Invest in repairing and upgrading our infrastructure – including transportation, communication, sewage, water and electric systems – to create good jobs and drive the economy forward.
- Support investment to advance the clean energy economy, spur green job creation, reduce dependence on foreign oil, and mitigate the costs of climate change.
- Capitalize on existing state resources – including natural resources, infrastructure, or human capital – to build industry clusters in advanced manufacturing and innovative industries that create good, strong jobs and put people back to work.

##### *Inclusive Economy*

- Reward hard work with fair pay by requiring that women earn equal pay for doing the same work as men.
- Allow all working people the freedom to join together to negotiate for a fair return on their work, job safety, working conditions, and the best way to get the job done.

- Expand child care tax credits, after-school programs, and high-quality child care so that parents have the opportunity to work.
- Offer protections to all workers so that they can fully participate in the economy, and protect against exploitation of low-wage workers.
- Make sure that no one is excluded from the economy by “banning the box” to create job opportunities for people with prior convictions and arrests, targeting job programs at the most economically marginalized communities, and cracking down on predatory lending which takes advantage of low-income workers.

### **Supporting Working Families**

- Raise the state minimum wage, pass fair overtime rules, and expand the state Earned Income Tax Credit so that those who work hard and play by the rules can earn enough to support their families.
- Provide state-sponsored family and medical leave insurance so that all workers – not just the wealthy few – can spend time with newborns, care for loved ones when they are seriously ill, and address their own serious medical conditions.
- Allow all working Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can take care of themselves or a family member when they get sick – without fear of losing a day’s wages or their job – which helps employees, families, businesses, and the economy.
- Protect retirement savings and pensions and establish secure ways to save for retirement.
- Provide financial incentives to state colleges and universities to ensure all students have access to debt-free college education in America.
- Make Pre-K universal so that all children have an equal opportunity to succeed and ultimately compete for the good-paying jobs of the future.

### **Leveling the Playing Field**

- Eliminate state and local tax incentives that subsidize companies who turn around and ship jobs overseas, and instead give tax breaks to companies that create jobs here.
- Lower taxes for middle- and low-income families, including regressive state taxes like sales and property tax that disproportionately impact lower-income households.
- Close tax loopholes that allow hedge fund managers to pay a lower tax rate than kindergarten teachers and that allow corporations to deduct CEO bonuses and force average taxpayers to pick up the tab.
- Crack down on wage theft so that employers can’t deny their workers a fair day’s pay for a fair day’s work.