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**WHYY TO HOST, CO-SPONSOR TOWN HALL MEETING  
APRIL 30 ON PENNSYLVANIA'S BUDGET CRISIS**

*Meeting Will Be Broadcast on WHYY-TV on May 3*

PHILADELPHIA, April 2, 2009 — WHYY will host a town hall meeting April 30 on Pennsylvania's budget crisis. Titled "Tight Times, Tough Choices: The Pennsylvania State Budget," the meeting will feature top state officials answering questions posed by an audience of about 120 citizens.

Co-sponsored by WHYY and The Philadelphia Foundation, the meeting will be recorded for broadcast on WHYY-TV at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 3, and rebroadcast multiple times on the WHYY's Y Info channel (12.3, Comcast 258 and FiOS 473). Other public television stations across Pennsylvania will broadcast the meeting in early May.

The three-hour meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in WHYY's Civic Space, located on the first floor of its building at 150 N. Sixth St. in Philadelphia, with a briefing on the basics of the commonwealth's budget by Steven Wray, executive director of the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia. The audience will then raise questions and discuss their concerns about the budget in "tabletop forums." Audience members will use dialogue from the "tabletop forums" to ask questions of a panel of Pennsylvania officials, including state Rep. Dwight Evans, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and state Sen. Jake Corman, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The panel will be moderated by Nell Abom, host of Harrisburg-based WITF-TV's *Smart Talk*.

The "tabletop forums" will be moderated by expert facilitators from the Penn Project for Civic Engagement, which spearheaded the "Great Expectations: Citizen Voices on Philadelphia's Future" and, in February, four Philadelphia citizen budget workshops. WHYY's *It's Our City*, a multiplatform civic engagement project produced by WHYY's award-winning News and Information Service in partnership with the *Philadelphia Daily News*, covered those meetings and eight city-led town hall meetings on Philadelphia's budget in November and December.

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