



The United States Conference of Mayors

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U.S. MAYORS: MAINSTREET AMERICA IS STILL IN RECESSION, CITIES IN DIRE NEED OF JOBS

USCM Past President, Trenton Mayor Doug Palmer Addresses Economic Policy Institute

Washington, D.C. – On behalf of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, USCM Past President Trenton Mayor Douglas Palmer will deliver the keynote address today at the Economic Policy Institute's panel discussion on the fiscal challenges facing state and local governments. Mark Zandi from Moody's Economy.com, Iris Lav from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Ethan Pollack from the Economic Policy Institute will join Mayor Palmer as featured panelists.

Palmer will explain that, "Without economic and job recovery in our nation's cities and metro areas, there can be no true national recovery." Cities and their metropolitan areas account for 86 percent of all jobs, and 90 percent of labor income and gross domestic product. Further, 94 percent of all future jobs will be generated in metro areas, which are the economic engines driving our economy.

U.S. mayors are concerned that unemployment numbers in cities are staggering – well beyond national unemployment figures -- and continue to grow: 13.9 percent in Long Beach, California; 13.4 percent in Las Vegas, Nevada; 19.4 percent in National City, California; 14.9 percent in Providence, Rhode Island; 11.5 percent in St. Louis, Missouri; and 10.9 percent in Cleveland, Ohio for example.

Palmer will also explain that, "While Wall Street may be in recovery, Main Street America is still hurting. Many economists are saying we are coming out of the recession, but mayors are concerned that we are in a jobless recession with many cities experiencing double-digit unemployment numbers. Hence we must work with Congress and the White House to create jobs on Main Street now."

Cities are now facing the full brunt of the recession with mounting budget pressures at the local government level that translate into budget shortfalls, personnel layoffs and significant reductions in public services. U.S. Mayors maintain that targeted fiscal assistance program for local governments will provide immediate relief and spur job creation through local infrastructure projects.

This event will be webcast live at http://www.epi.org/publications/entry/spurring_job_creation_webcast/

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.