





# Why A Strong Public Sector is Important to Philanthropy



Jann Jackson
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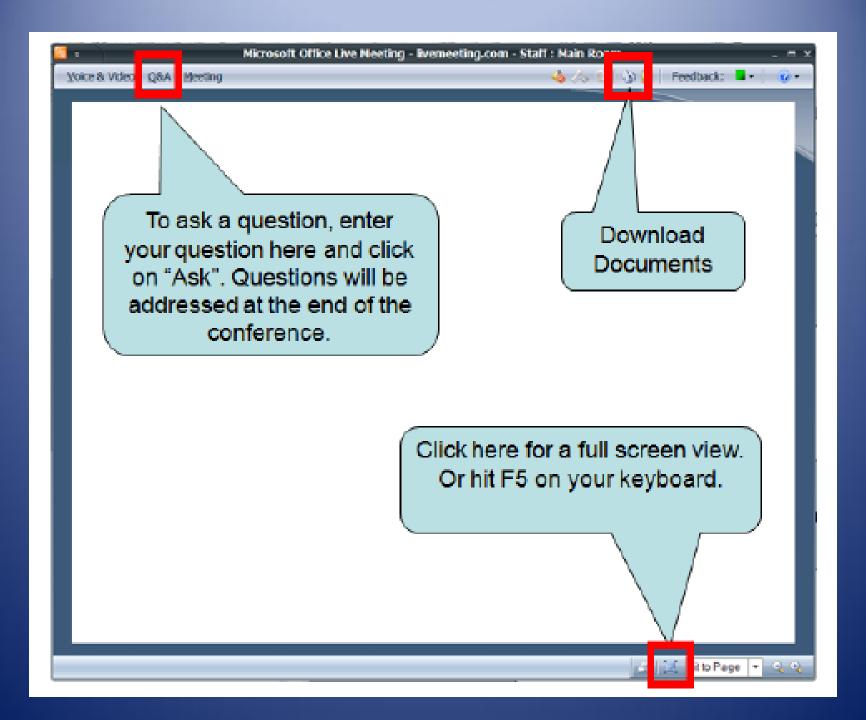




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# Why a Strong Public Sector is Important to Philanthropy

The Communications Collaborative GIST - GCYF – GIH

June 5, 2012

Jann Jackson, Senior Associate Policy Reform and Advocacy The Annie E. Casey Foundation

# We count on the public sector for what we cannot do ourselves:

Collect and disseminate data on the well being of our citizens

Support those in need due to denied opportunity or economic downturns

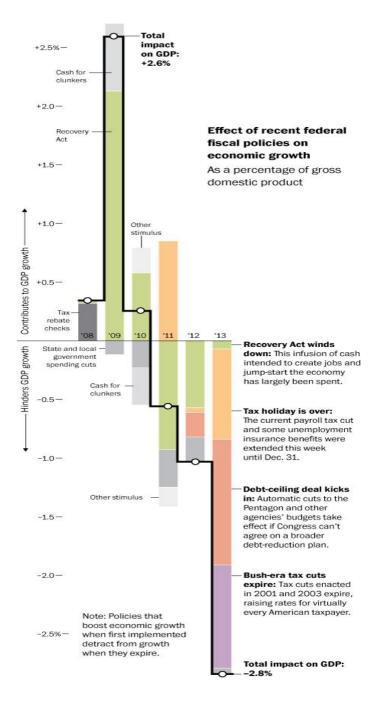
Take evidence-based approaches to social problems to scale

Support public infrastructure such as roads and public transportation

Protect the health and safety of citizens and the environment

Enforce the laws which are the foundation of a civil society

Potential Economic
Impact of Upcoming
Federal Fiscal Decisions to
be Made between Nov
2012-Jan 2013



Taxmageddon Sparks Rising Anxiety, Washington Post May 15, 2012

## Why a Strong Public Sector is Important to Philanthropy

# The Communications Collaborative GIST - GCYF – GIH

June 5, 2012

Patrick Bresette – pbresette@publicworks.org



www.publicworks.org



Building public support for a government dedicated to the common good and empowered to address the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century.

# We need a new shared story . . . One that:

- Reminds people of the unique mission and purpose of government and public programs in a functioning society
- Brings back into focus the myriad public systems and structures we use and depend on every day
- Engages people as civic stewards (not just consumers) of those public systems and services

### The Work of Public Works

#### Research

- Government
- The Economy
- Budgets & Taxes

#### In the Field

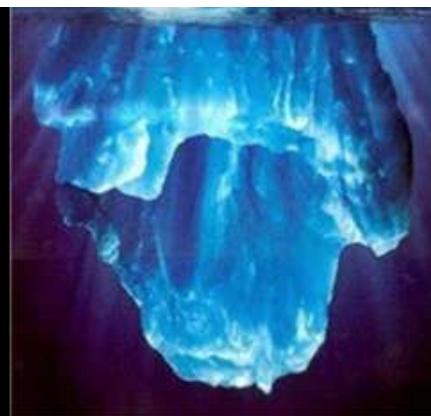
- Policy Shops
- Advocates
- Organizers
- Coalitions
- Public Officials

## What We are Trying to Understand

Polling: Looking for Visible Attitudes



Our Research: Looking for Hidden Reasoning



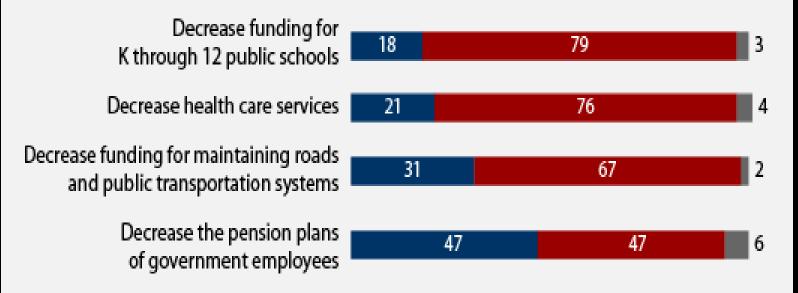
# So, what are our stories about government?

# IF GOVERNMENT IS THE ANSWER, IT WAS A STUPID QUESTION

#### But . . . no deep support for cutting services

If your state government needs to find ways to balance its budget this year, do you think your state should do the following or not?

■ Yes, state should ■ No, state should not ■ Don't know/refused



Source: February 2-7, 2011 Pew Research Center for the People and the Press political survey. N=1.385.









# The Good News

- The "idea" of government is not lost
- Responsible citizenship is still valued
- A desire for collective action, respecting consensus, and problemsolving
- Stewardship and planning for the future – roles for government

#### **Just Politics**



a partisan blowhard spectator sport

### **Just Politics**





Mission and Purpose

# Mission & Purpose



#### **VALUES**

- Common Good
- Quality of Life
- Community Wellbeing
- Public Purpose

#### **ROLE**

- Protector
- Manager & Planner
- Steward
- Consensus-Builder

Speaking to Values Directs Thinking

## **Values Matter**

- We reason first from deeply held values.
- Values help answer: "Why does this matter to me/us?"
- We need to start with Values, not with the policy and program details

## Why does this matter?

"Every child should have access to immunizations but too many families in our community are not bringing their children in to our clinics. This is why we are proposing a new agency rule requiring more clinic hours . . . "

## **Speak to Values First**

"The health of the whole community is protected when we ensure that our children are immunized. One of the ways we do this is through our public health agencies that provide free and low cost immunizations for all children. We need extended clinic hours to keep up with growing demands."

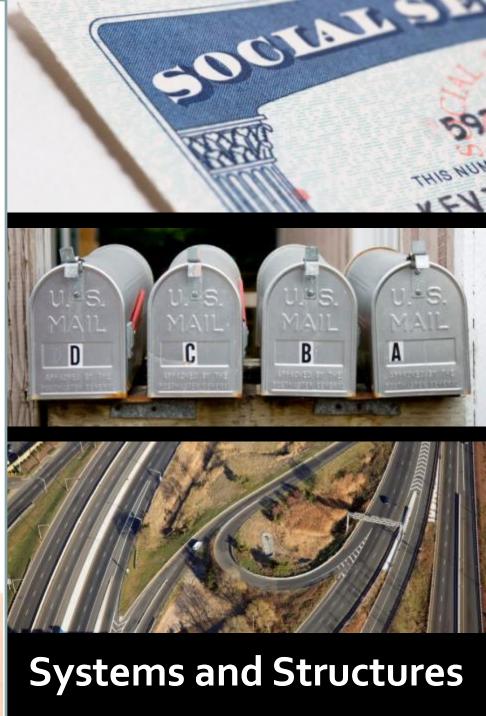
#### Mindless Bureaucracy



blurry and undefined; only dimly understood

#### **Mindless Bureaucracy**





# Systems & Structures







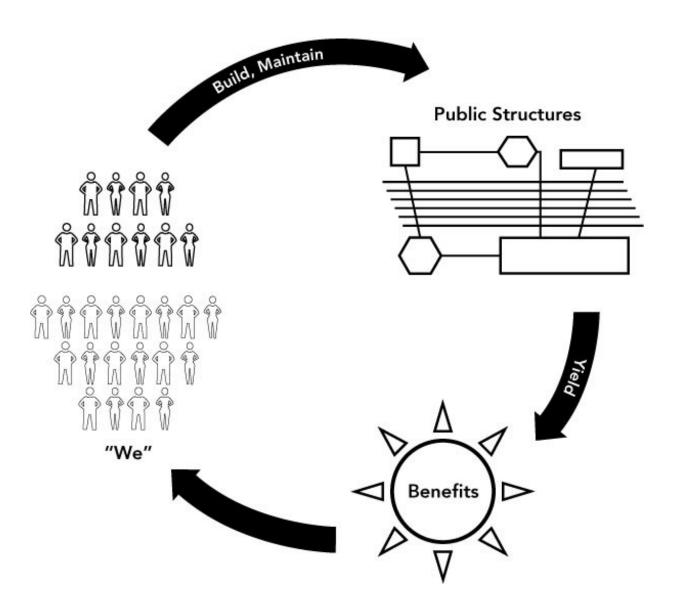
- Concrete and vivid images
- The public systems we have created
- How they work
- Why they are important

## **Core Narrative Ideas**

Our wellbeing and prosperity rest largely on the public institutions and structures we have built together over many decades . . . and our future depends on how well we maintain these and build the new ones we need . . .

The systems, institutions and structures that we build and maintain together are critical foundations of our economy; they are essential to our prosperity, to opportunity, and to a thriving the middle-class . . .

## **Rounding Out the Story**



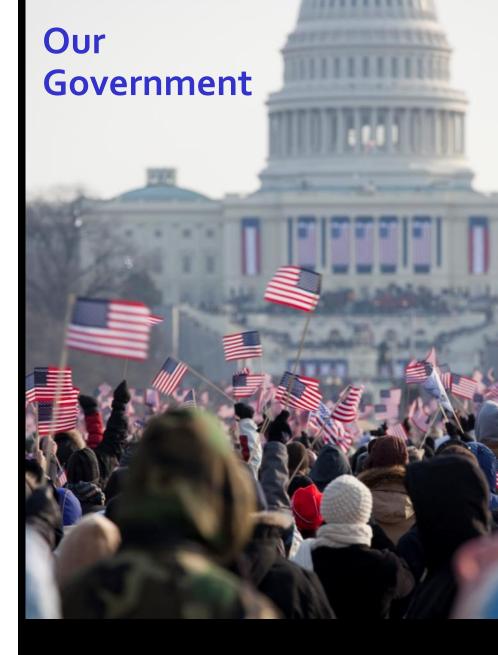
#### **Consumer Stance**



What's in it for me, and what is it going to cost?

#### **Consumer Stance**





**Citizen Stance** 

# Citizen Thinking



- Interdependence
- Working together
- Problem-solving
- Everyone has a role to play
- "Our" Government
- The Common Interest

## **Dominant Stories**







**Just Politics** 

**Bureaucracy** 

**Vending Machine** 

. . .can't solve anything . . . not my responsibility

## **New Stories**



**Mission & Purpose** 

**Systems & Structures** 

**Citizen-Thinking** 

... our tool for solutions & the common good ...

# Examples from the Field



## SOUND RESEARCH. BOLD SOLUTIONS.

Policy Areas ▼

About Us **▼** 

schmudget

Press Room

keyword search

#### >>

#### **Progress Index**



Hope for the Future

#### What's New:

- Economic Security: Senate Budget would Cut Vital Support for Struggling Families(Feb.26, 2010)
- Healthy People and the Environment: Proposed
   Budget Would Undermine Environmental Protection
   Efforts (Feb.5,2010)
- Education and Opportunity: Investing in Washington's Workforce (Jan. 15, 2010)

#### SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL

#### **FOLLOW US**





#### Watch us on TVW

Our Executive Director Remy Trupin recently appeared on TVW to discuss the 2012 Legislative Session, revenue options, and reform.



#### The report describes these values in detail and outlines goals for state investments to

The Progress Index is an innovative framework for analyzing the state budget based on

make long term progress toward a just and prosperous state. The Budget & Policy Center will use this framework to analyze ongoing state budget decisions.

four widely-shared values: Education and Opportunity, Healthy People and

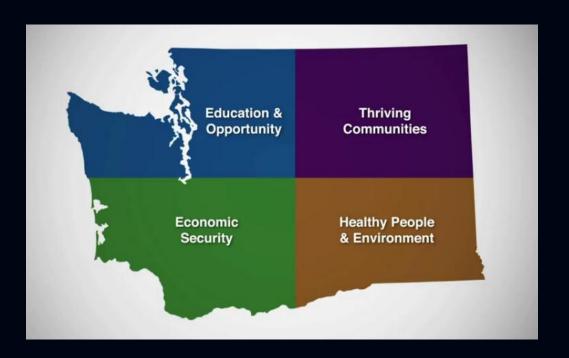
Environment, Thriving Communities, and Economic Security.

#### A Shared Vision

#### **Legislative Testimony**

Policy Analyst Andy Nicholas testified on tax policy and revenue trends before a work session of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Click below.





Quality of life in the state depends on healthy people and environment. Good



health allows people to participate in the social, economic, and cultural opportunities of their community. A healthy environment ensures food, water, and recreation without fear of pollution or toxins. Efforts to promote a healthy state are part of our shared responsibility and benefit all of us.







## TIME TO CARE:

How North Carolina Can Promote Health, Support Workers, and Strengthen Families

A Work-Family Policy Agenda

"... A talent for speaking differently, rather than for arguing well, is the chief instrument of cultural change . . ."

- Richard Rorty



www.publicworks.org

### TEXAS WELL AND HEALTHY

A statewide, grassroots campaign to improve the health and wellbeing of Texans

## **Rethinking Real Texas Values**



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## The Challenge

## Move forward for Texans in a tough year: 2011

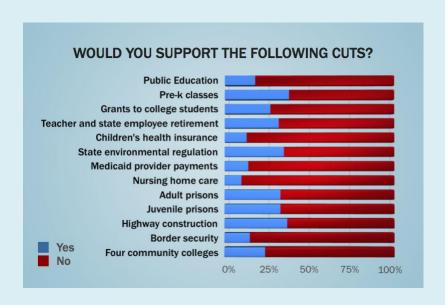
- \$27 billion budget shortfall
- Skepticism about government
- Opposition to the Affordable Care Act







## Where Texans Really Stand



- Broad support for protecting public services
- 9 in 10 opposed proposed cuts
- Only 1 in 10 opposed <u>all</u> options to raise revenue

Source: Texas Tribune/University of Texas Poll

February 2011



## The Message & Audience

#### What matters to Texans:

- Tradition and history
- Independence
- Texas pride
- Values and vision





#### What doesn't:

- ❖ "Programs"
- "Funding"
- "Government"

#### TEXAS WELL AND HEALTHY

## **The Products**







- Budget explainer
- Social media & web tools
- Interactive "sticker" book

## **The Collaboration**



## A Branding Shift





## **Equipping Partners & Allies**

- Train the Trainer
- Supporter Engagement
  - Social Media Ambassadors
  - Hosting workshops
  - Letters to the editor
- Tools and resources



## **Maintaining Dialogue**

## Multiple formats for connecting with Texans

- Social Media
- The Texas Treatment
- "Ask Cheasty" Column
- Texas Health Care Workshop



## Results

- Worst-case budget scenario averted
- Several wins for health care campaign
- Increasing media coverage
- Stronger and more diverse allies
- Mobilization and growth:
  - + 2,600 on social media
  - + 5,100 on email list

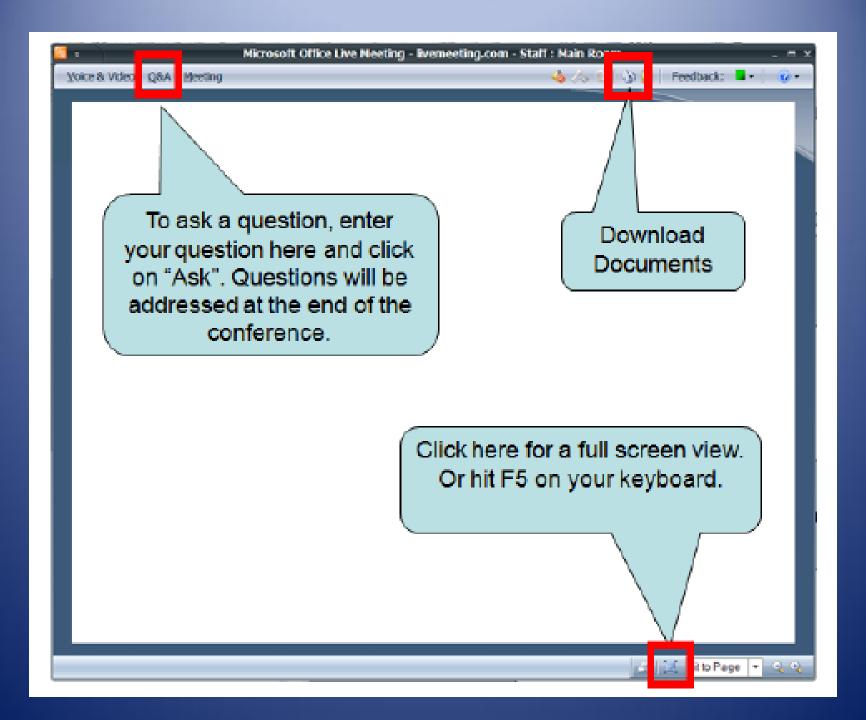


### **Thank You!**



www.texaswellandhealthy.org

#### TEXAS WELL AND HEALTHY



## Upcoming Events

**Communications Collaborative Funders Call** 

June 8, 12:30-1:30 PM ET

<u>Planning Our Shared Future: Investing in Immigrant Children, Youth, & Families</u>
July 10, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Quarterly Funders Call with the U.S. Dept. Of Housing and Urban Development July 12, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

<u>Parent Organizing and Community Engagement Training Institute for Grantmakers</u> July 24-26, Orlando, FL

<u>Post-Election Philanthropy: Votes, Values, and Vision</u> December 17-18, Washington, DC

GCYF 2012 Annual Conference: *Investing in Promising Futures for All* October 9-12, El Paso, Texas



## Thank You!

To download handouts from this event click on the handouts icon in the top right corner of the screen or visit www.gcyf.org.





