



## Prosperity Economics: Building an Economy for All

### Policy Recommendations

*Prosperity Economics: Building an Economy for All* presents a bold new vision for our economy. Professor Jacob Hacker and Nathaniel Loewentheil of Yale University conclude that the only way we can strengthen our economy now and for the future is by investing in our society to create greater health, broader security, increased equality of opportunity and more broadly distributed wealth.

Prosperity economics is built on three pillars: growth, security and democracy. These three pillars support a strong, secure middle class and reinforce one another. To rebuild the three pillars of shared prosperity, we must take bold, immediate action.

These key policy recommendations will ensure today's young workers—and the generations after them—inherit a stronger economy.

#### Economic Growth

***Dynamic, innovation-led growth, grounded in job creation, public investment and broad opportunity***

We must take immediate action to jumpstart our sagging economy. Going forward, we need to invest in people and productivity that will lead to good jobs and rising wages.

- **Policy Recommendations**

- Invest \$250 billion per year for the next six years to rebuild our nation's crumbling roads, bridges, ports, airports and public transportation systems.
- Restore America's manufacturing base by ending the trade deficit and tax incentives for offshoring.
- Provide help to states and localities to hire back teachers, first responders and other public servants.
- Ensure decent wages and job quality by guaranteeing that workers have the right to form unions and to collectively bargain.
- Favor workers over Wall Street. Ensure the Federal Reserve's policies and priorities promote full employment—jobs for all who want them.
- Create a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants.
- Provide every child with an excellent education, every working family with affordable child care and every student with an opportunity to attend college.
- Expand job training programs at all levels of government and in both the public and private sectors.

#### Economic Security

***Security for workers and their families, the environment and government finances***

Markets work better when working families feel a basic security for their futures. Only when families can be sure they will not be deprived of necessities like health care and retirement security can we create a dynamic and competitive economy.

- **Policy Recommendations**

- Build on the Affordable Care Act by adding a public option with the clout to push back against insurance companies so everyone has access to affordable, quality health care.
- End the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans. The Bush tax cuts are the largest single contributor to our current revenue shortfall.
- Increase public investment in research and development for clean energy technologies by \$15 billion per year.
- Take action to reduce carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases to mitigate climate change.
- Provide a simple, universal mandatory pension for all that would guarantee a lifetime benefit to provide real retirement security to workers, and strengthen and expand Social Security.
- Implement a financial transaction tax to discourage short-term speculation and reduce the chance of financial crises. The tax would be invested publically and fund job creation.

<b>Democracy</b>
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***Democratic voice, inclusivity and accountability – in Washington and the workplace***

Democracy means we have a strong system of checks and balances both in our government and in the private sector that empowers citizens, guarantees more inclusive decision making and creates strong mechanisms of accountability.

- **Policy Recommendations**

- Protect the right to vote to ensure every voice is heard in the political process. Repeal disenfranchisement and voter ID laws and adopt same-day voter registration, provisional voting and other measures to maximize voter participation and access.
- Guarantee every worker has a voice in the workplace, including a quick, fair process for workers to choose union representation and have the power to bargain collectively. Enforce stronger penalties on companies that violate labor laws.
- Free government from corporate interests by reinstating the firewalls between investment and banking.
- Improve consumer protections against unfair credit card fees and practices, predatory lending and bankruptcy rules biased in favor of creditors.
- Rein in the power of corporations and the rich by empowering shareholders through greater corporate disclosure and transparency and input in setting executive pay. Corporate power is not reigned in simply by empowering shareholders. Democracy also requires a counterweight to corporate power: Strong unions and community organizations are needed to ensure that workers, and the public more broadly, have an organized voice in our political process.

Read the full report and learn more about how you can join the growing *Prosperity for All* movement at [www.prosperityforamerica.org](http://www.prosperityforamerica.org).