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New web-based resource now available for candidates and voters

Growth & Justice launches Facts & Fixes feature, helping information-seekers to easily access useful information and practical ideas for expanding prosperity in Minnesota

ST. PAUL, MN – Growth & Justice has launched “[Facts & Fixes](#),” a new web-based resource that provides easier access to the substantial research and analysis the think-tank has produced on how to spur growth and build a more inclusive prosperity in Minnesota.

On the new website, Growth & Justice highlights the importance of improving education, transportation, economic development, tax reform, and government accountability. The site presents links to research findings and spells out specific public policy recommendations.

“Citizens, candidates, business leaders and government officials value good research, but they need faster access to understandable, digestible information,” said Dane Smith, president of Growth & Justice. “Our new Facts & Fixes website area condenses essential public policy findings and recommendations for easy reference, drawing on almost a decade of Growth & Justice work.”

“The Facts & Fixes website gives Minnesotans quick, valuable information on a range of important issues, but it also links users to in-depth Growth & Justice reports and policy briefs that offer far more detailed information on the research and the recommendations,” according to Smith.

Some recommendations from the Facts & Fixes website include:

Education

- Good prenatal care and quality early childhood experiences to ready a child for elementary school learning.
- Social skills training, class size reduction, and intensive focus on early skills acquisition.
- Rigorous coursework and tutoring, and social support groups.
- College prep curriculum with teacher development, parent involvement, student counseling and progress monitoring.
- Teen pregnancy and drop-out prevention, and reducing financial barriers to college access.

Government Accountability

- Establish leadership commitment.
- Set long term goals and priorities.
- Strive for transparency, straight talks and open books.
- Maintain fiscal responsibility and fairness.
- Focus on efficiency and effectiveness.
- Demand accountability for results.

Economic Development

- Invest in education and training to better the lives of Minnesotans and improve the skills and knowledge that they bring to their jobs.
- Invest in public infrastructure that will yield high-return benefits for the cost.
- Avoid or minimize company-specific tax breaks and public subsidies.
- Identify Minnesota's comparative advantages, critical region-wide industries and occupations, internal economic linkages, and emerging prospects for development.
- Pursue economic development strategies that take aim at the drivers of economic growth.
- Avoid using tax dollars as financial capital for private ventures.
- Secure a strong return on investment from any state economic development initiative, program or action – setting clear goals and demanding accountability.

Transportation

- Rigorously pursue transit service and improvements aimed at transporting Minnesotans with low income and limited options.
- Assess conditions and reconfigure the interregional corridor system to better reflect freight patterns in Minnesota and strengthen connections between the state's trade centers.
- Pursue policies and strategies that reduce delays and clear traffic incidents more quickly from roadways.

Taxes

- The measures of success of any new revenue plan should be:
 1. Increasing the proportionality of our tax system at the top, as measured by the state's tax incidence analysis.
 2. Avoiding new taxes on families with below-average earnings.
 3. Reducing the ratio of fees to taxes, since fees are more regressive.
- Because business taxes fall disproportionately on Minnesotans with lower incomes, the state should consider a restructured tax system that reduces and simplifies business taxes.

Facts & Fixes is available at http://www.growthandjustice.org/facts_fixes.html.

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Growth & Justice is a non-profit, non-partisan, public policy research organization and a leading progressive voice on state economic issues. Growth & Justice advocates for fair taxation and smart public sector investment — fiscally responsible, accountable investment that advances prosperity for all Minnesotans.