



**COUNCIL'S HISTORIC VOTE A VICTORY FOR CITY'S
CHILDREN AND NEIGHBORHOODS**

*Passage of Soda Tax Paves the Way for Expanded Pre-K, Community Schools and
Neighborhood Revitalization Programs*

Philadelphia, June 16, 2016 – City Council's historic vote today to adopt the sweetened beverages tax is a major victory in the campaign to expand pre-K for children, create 25 new community schools, and invest \$300 million to revitalize scores of neighborhood recreation centers, parks and libraries.

Philadelphians for a Fair Future offers the following statement in response to the Council vote:

“PFF congratulates City Council and Mayor Kenney for this remarkable achievement. As a result of their courageous leadership, the City stands ready to implement the most significant anti-poverty initiatives in more than a generation, including: funding for 6,500 new pre-K seats citywide over the next five years; creating 25 community schools where an array of health, behavioral and social services will ‘wrap around’ the educational program to improve academic success for students; and launching a \$300 million investment to renovate rec centers, parks and libraries in neighborhoods throughout the city.

“Council deserves the thanks of all Philadelphians for their commitment to these programs and their willingness to vote for the tax as the fairest way to pay for them, even in the face of the soda industry’s aggressive and extremely well-funded campaign against the tax, which featured a massive advertising effort to spread rumors and misinformation about the legislation.

“Today’s victory demonstrates that when people unite around a worthy and clearly-articulated set of proposals like those advanced by Mayor Kenney, the ideas they embody are strong enough to defeat even the most well-funded and aggressive lobbying effort. Philadelphians know that this tax is the fairest and most effective way to pay for programs that are good for all children and good for the City’s future, and in the end that’s why it was adopted.”

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About PFF

Philadelphians for a Fair Future represents a coalition of 81 organizations and thousands of people from all walks of life in Philadelphia, including: Public Citizens for Children and Youth; the Philadelphia Parks Alliance; the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers; Education Voters of Pennsylvania; the Service Employees International Union; Center for Popular Democracy; the Alliance of Community Service Providers; the Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children; Men United for a Better Philadelphia; Ceiba; Action United; Aspira; the Center for Science in the Public Interest; Lodge 5 of the FOP; Local 22, IAFF; District Councils 33 and 47, AFSCME; Youth United for Change; and multiple community development corporations and small business owners from throughout the city.

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