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**NOTE: Don't miss the March 25<sup>th</sup> annual event and Gubernatorial forum. Just email the names of attendees and billing address for the \$55 registration per person to: [joan@monvalleyprogress.org](mailto:joan@monvalleyprogress.org)**

## **Progress is ...**

The Mon Valley Progress Council's annual event "Celebration of Progress", scheduled for March 25, will feature a gubernatorial candidates forum // Delay in federal highway bill could help Expressway // Smart Government Initiative plans Saturday morning session with local governments // Progress Council promotes full-count census initiative

### **PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS**

**The Mon Valley Progress Council's annual event "Celebration of Progress", scheduled for March 25, will feature a gubernatorial candidates forum -** The Progress Council's annual "Celebration of Progress" has been scheduled for, 6:00 p.m., March 25 at the Willowroom, 800 Plaza Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. The event will feature a gubernatorial candidates forum with a campaign atmosphere. Reservations are \$55 per person. Please contact the Progress Council for more information

**Delay in federal highway bill could help Expressway** – Continued delays for passage of a federal highway bill could help the Expressway by permitting extra time to include language that could target funding to the project.

**Smart Government Initiative plans Saturday morning session with local governments** – The Progress Council-led Smart Government Initiative will hold a half day work session with local governmental officials to discuss strategies for regionally based delivery of local government services.

**Progress Council promotes full-count census initiative -** The Progress Council has joined with the US Census Bureau to promote a full count in the decennial census. A full count is crucial to ensure that the Mid Mon Valley receives its fair share of federal funding for everything from human services to funding for road improvements. Please see the ad at the end of the newsletter for more information.

## **The Mon Valley Progress Council's annual event "Celebration of Progress", scheduled for March 25, will feature gubernatorial candidates forum**

The Progress Council's annual "Celebration of Progress" has been scheduled for, 6:00 PM, March 25 at the Willowroom, 800 Plaza Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. The event will feature a gubernatorial candidates forum with a campaign atmosphere.

Progress Council president John Easoz sees the candidates' forum as a way of pushing for Expressway support and a more positive business climate in Pennsylvania, "We will be asking the candidates to discuss ways to advance the Expressway project and promote the growth of business in Pennsylvania. A core issue to improving our business climate is reduction of the Corporate Net Income Tax." There will be an opportunity to ask questions from the floor.

The event will have the atmosphere of a political convention and casual food. Reservations are \$55 per person. Please contact the Progress Council for more information.

## **Delay in federal highway bill could help Expressway**

Continued delays for passage of a federal highway bill could help the Expressway by permitting extra time to include language that could target funding to the project. Current legislation called SAFETEA-LU expired last fall and the highway and transit program has been operating under a series of short-term extensions.

The Progress Council has been pressing for language in pending federal highway funding reauthorization legislation that would build on a key section that was in SAFETEA-LU. The provision, Projects of National and Regional Significance (PNORS), targeted funding to major transportation projects but funding under the section was earmarked for local projects.

"We are working closely with our U.S. senators and the southwestern Pennsylvania delegation to expand The SAFETEA-LU provision as a way of targeting funding to the large projects such as the Expressway and Southern Beltway," said Progress Council Executive Director Joe Kirk.

Plans are underway for a late spring trip to Washington DC to press for inclusion of the provision of the next highway bill. Action on the bill is not expected until fall of 2010.

## Smart Government Initiative plans Saturday morning session with local governments

The Progress Council-led Smart Government Initiative will hold a half-day work session with local governmental officials to discuss strategies for regionally based delivery of local government services.


Planning for the late March session will be discussed at the next meeting of the Smart Government Steering Committee scheduled for March 4, 5:30 PM at the Fallowfield Township volunteer Fire Hall. The Saturday work session will include consideration of a broad range of municipal services such as regional policing, and contracting opportunities for professional administration assistance, cable TV contract negotiations, building code enforcement, solid waste collection and disposal.

Based on recent meetings of the steering committee, there is a growing interest in developing strategies to select one or more service areas as a model for regional cooperative effort. The Progress Council has partnered with the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and retained the services of the governmental consultant firm PA Futures for the Smart Government Initiative.


**The 2010 Census Needs Your Help.**

Congressional representation and billions of dollars are at stake. Results of the Census will determine how much funding is allocated to your community for senior citizens' and childrens' programs, health care services, and much more. You Count!

*This March, take 10 minutes to complete 10 simple questions.  
It's easy, safe and important. April 1, 2010 is Census Day!*



**Mon Valley Progress Council**



IT'S IN OUR HANDS  
[www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov)

**United States  
Census  
2010**

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