

# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX A Public Bank Movement

**Los Angeles (1/8/2018):** Cities Charge Ahead With Public Banks. The movement to create municipal Public Banks continues to surge forward as more and more cities wake up to the powerful benefits it promises. An article out this week in *Fast Company* quotes PBI Chair Ellen Brown and describes the challenges faced by our allies at Public Bank LA when NoDAPL activists successfully pressured Los Angeles to move their money out of Wells Fargo: where to put city funds next? Where is the banking institution that is large enough to handle the city's sizable accounts, ethical in their business practices, and accountable to the public? The need became clear for a Public Bank with a mandate to serve the public.

### Santa Cruz and California Are Ready for Public Banking

An eloquent op-ed penned by Steve Pleich describes why California and Santa Cruz are uniquely suited to stand up to the pressure brought by the crisis rocked private banking industry and create their own Public Banks. He writes, "[Public Banks] are a way, at long last, to manage money in the public interest.'

**San Francisco:** A new article in *48 Hills* shines a light on the positive report issued in late November by the San Francisco Supervisors: "A public bank would be better equipped to meet the city's business needs and public policy goals," concludes the City's budget and legislative analyst. San Francisco has assembled its 16-member Municipal Bank Feasibility Task Force that will study launching a Public Bank. SF Treasurer José Cisneros announced last week the task force's purpose is "to identify and pursue opportunities to extend access to credit for small businesses, provide banking services to the cannabis industry, expand capital for affordable housing, and research the viability and advisability of a municipal bank."

1/2/2018: San Francisco Bank is a great idea, city budget analyst concludes. Cisneros continued: "San Francisco has always been a leader in socially responsible banking and investment. I am eager to work with the Task Force to identify new approaches to support our City's bold vision for inclusive innovation.

**Portland:** Public Bank fans want to get City Council on board. Portland Public Banking Alliance is actively pushing the solution: create a Public Bank of Portland. "My hope is that a public bank would be a profitmaking institution except the profit would be for public purposes," says the Alliance's David E. Delk in a recent article in *Next City*.

**Seattle:** Diverse Coalition Emerges Around Public Banking Activists as diverse as Black Lives Matter, local tribal members of the Standing Rock Coalition, [350.org](http://350.org), Democratic Socialists, and MLK County Labor Council, as well as several experienced bankers, retired government officials and law school professors have coalesced along with Public Banking advocates in Seattle to pressure the City Council to move forward quickly on their newly approved \$100,000 feasibility study.

**St. Louis:** The Board of Alderman President introduced legislation for a task force to study how a public bank of St. Louis could address some of the city's most pressing needs, including affordable housing, small business growth, and financing for municipal projects.

**Alaska:** Alaska legislators submitted a bill to create a state bank. Below are quotes from the sponsors:

Rep. Kawasaki: "A state bank would offer Alaskans new opportunities to invest in themselves. Too many Alaskans who have the dream, desire and drive are denied bank loans and cannot access credit. This bank can help Alaskans build their own local business."

Rep. Tuck: "A state bank will allow us to control our own economic destiny by investing in industrial development to create value added industries from our resources. This will create physical wealth for our state and insulate us from the swings of the banking markets, which can hinder us from necessary development."

**New Jersey:** Codey, Gill Introduce Murphy's State Bank Proposal (1/19/2018) State Sens. Nia Gill and Richard Codey, both Democrats from Essex County, introduced the State Bank of New Jersey Act at the beginning of the legislative session. Newly elected Governor Murphy, a former Goldman Sachs executive, first called for a state-run bank in the fall of 2016, noting that the state deposits more than \$1 billion in commercial banks — some even overseas. "We will invest directly in our state and its people by establishing a public bank and putting New Jersey's resources to work for New Jerseyans," he said in a September 2016 speech about the economy at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

**Michigan:** Michigan lawmakers file bi-partisan bill to create a State Public Bank. Michigan leaps forward into the running for the first state in a hundred years to create a Public Bank, thanks to Republicans and Democrats working together in their state's best interests. Last Thursday, MI House Bills 5431-5434 were formally introduced — a bipartisan package of bills that would create and maintain a state bank. According to a statement by State Rep. Martin Howrylak (R), the Michigan state-run bank would effectively be a co-operative, holding state and local government funds. The bank could then use those funds to provide loans to the state and its subdivisions (schools, cities,). Howrylak continued: "This is a fiscally responsible solution for taxpayers. As states are looking for ways to reduce spending, many are exploring the

idea of a state-owned bank, similar to the Bank of North Dakota. In North Dakota, public revenue runs through the state-owned bank (Bank of North Dakota, BND). The BND provides loans significantly below market interest rates to local governments, smaller banks and businesses. Local governments and schools use these savings to pump more money into classrooms, expand access to infrastructure funding and keep tax rates low.”

**National Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure:** PBI Chair Ellen Brown and former Chair Walt McRee present on Public Banks at national conference on sustainable infrastructure. Ellen Brown and Walt McRee head to Washington DC this week for the National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) conference on Sustainable Infrastructure.

The conference features experts from around the globe and will host thousands of participants. Ellen and Walt are conducting a workshop "The Backbone of Sustainable Infrastructure: Cooperative Ownership & Public Banks." The workshop will explain how co-ops and Public Banks provide the structural mechanics for creation of a “new regenerative economy” (NRE) that goes beyond mere sustainability to embrace a commitment to public service that generates human-focused community outcomes rather than mere paper profits.

**‘It’s Our Money’ podcast:** “An Economy Worthy of Our Affection” The latest episode of the podcast series It’s Our Money with Ellen Brown examines what amounts to the soul of an economy. While the Declaration of Independence codes into our country’s fabric the unalienable right to the “pursuit of happiness,” any measure of happiness is far removed from our current measures of capitalism’s success.

The very notion that an economy could deserve an emotional response seems to unreasonably mix metaphors; how could economic activities elicit heart-warming affection? Yet economies can either be devised to deprive or enrich their participants, which suggests that we can craft ones that secure, enable and nurture work and life relationships. Are we living in an age on the verge of creating such new economies? Ellen and Walt’s guests this week, Dr. Edward Quevedo and economist Mark Anielski suggest that new economic metrics and values must be employed to keep humanity viable.