



Economic and Community Advisory Council
April 8, 2026
8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
FRB Philadelphia – 3rd Floor Conference Center

8:30 a.m.–9:00 a.m.

Arrival and Networking

9:00 a.m.–9:10 a.m.

Group Introductions

Deborah Hayes, Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs

Welcoming Remarks

Loree Jones Brown, ECAC Chair, CEO, Philabundance

9:10 a.m.–9:30 a.m.

Opening Reflections and Group Questions

Anna Paulson, President and Chief Executive Officer

9:30 a.m.–9:45 a.m.

Economic Trends, Business and Consumer Conditions, and Workforce Dynamics

Ryo Tashiro, Outreach Economist and Advisor

9:45 a.m.–11:40 a.m.

Discussion Questions

Discussion facilitated by Loree Jones Brown

1. Are increasing oil and gas prices changing your business activity? Has there been a change in demand for, or usage of, your products or services related to these price increases? Does your firm currently have the pricing power to pass price increases to customers? How are higher oil prices affecting future business planning?
2. As the policy around tariffs continues to shift, has your organization been impacted — either positively or negatively? If applicable, what measures has your organization taken to mitigate the impact?
3. Have you observed any shifts in economic conditions since November? Aside from the oil and gas price increases we've already discussed, have you observed volatility in the costs of goods and services?
4. Have consumers and businesses been more or less price sensitive? Have there been any notable changes in consumer behavior over the past six months (slowed activity, increased caution, etc.)?



Break (approximately 10:45 a.m.)

5. How are commercial or residential real estate conditions currently impacting your organization or community?
6. Has it become easier or more difficult to hire since our November meeting? Have you observed changes to wages and other compensation? Are there more or fewer job candidates compared with November, and has the quality of applicants changed? What are the biggest barriers to hiring?
7. Has artificial intelligence (AI) usage at your company shifted since our November meeting? What tasks are you using AI to perform and assist with? Has the introduction of these technologies affected your workforce/staffing levels?
8. What do you see as the top risks/concerns for your organization over the next six to 12 months? What are potential solutions to these challenges?

11:40 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Closing Reflections

Anna Paulson

11:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Networking Lunch

2026 ECAC Meetings:

- Tuesday, August 18, 2026
- Tuesday, November 17, 2026