

“Effective Use of Surplus Building a Just and Caring Society”

Civic Party's proposal highlights on the 2008-09 financial budget

1. Revert the amount of the CSSA and the Disability Allowance to 2003 level.
2. Increase the annual health care vouchers from \$250 to \$1,000.
3. Increase the rate of Higher Old Age Allowance to \$1,000 per month.
4. Raise the criteria of monthly salaries eligible for the Transport Support Scheme from \$5,600 to \$7,000
5. Introduce a partial rebate of the 2007/08 final tax on salaries tax, subject to a cap of \$15,000 per case.
6. Broaden the tax base to \$40,000 and consider reducing the marginal tax rate for all tax bases
7. Waive the rates for the whole year of 2008/09 rates, subject to a cap of \$5,000 per case.
8. Extend the deduction period of the Home Loan Interest to 15 or 20 years.
9. Introduce a tax reduction scheme for medical insurance premiums, subject to a cap of \$3,000 per year per case.
10. Build the Tin Shui Wai Hospital and the North Lantau Island Hospital
11. Set an example by conducting a Carbon Audit and implementing an emissions reduction campaign on greenhouse gases.
12. Set up a “Heritage Trust Fund” to protect historical buildings.
13. Implement small class education in all secondary schools on a gradual basis.
14. Increase the number of articulation places for associate degrees graduates and extend all or waive a part of school-building loans.
15. Legislate minimum wage.
16. Begin preparation for fair competition legislation.