



Sharing ideas to expand opportunity, make government smarter, and invest in the future.



Addressing Consumer Debt

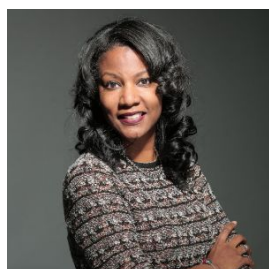
NewDEAL Leader Columbia, SC Mayor Steve Benjamin joined a co-author from the Aspen Institute Financial Security Program for a column in *Governing* on how local government can help residents address consumer debt, a source of major financial instability and negative consequences for local economies. [Read about three areas of opportunity](#) for local government to act, including solutions on which local leaders, including NewDEAL Leaders, are working.



Opportunity Zones Gain Clarity

New opportunity zone regulations rolled out by the U.S. Department of Treasury last week seek to help get capital flowing to distressed areas by aiming to clarify some significant issues that had given investors pause. It is hoped that the new regulations will help ensure that capital flows to "operating businesses" that generate new jobs and local wealth. [Learn more](#) from Route Fifty's coverage of the new regulations and [check out our profile](#) of one NewDEAL Leader, Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin's work on this issue from last week.

NewDEALer in the Spotlight:
Tishaura Jones, Treasurer
(St. Louis, MO)



Encouraging Banks to Improve Equity of Service

NewDEAL Leader St. Louis Treasurer Tishaura Jones is working to encourage banks to improve the services they offer in low- to middle-income neighborhoods and create more equity in banking opportunities. Treasurer Jones has expanded the questions the city asks of banks that seek to receive city deposits, such as by looking for detailed data on programs for the unbanked and on issues like home loan denials for African-American residents. [Read more](#) about her work in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, or [check out her interview](#) on the subject with local public radio.

The NewDEAL (Developing Exceptional American Leaders) is a national network of pro-growth progressive state and local leaders working to expand opportunity for all Americans in the changing economy.

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