

We can build A Better Illinois!

The Problem...

Layoffs. Closures. Privatization. Harmful cuts to the essential services we provide. AFSCME members know better than anyone the devastation caused by years of broken state budgets, and the domino effect at every level of government across Illinois.

At the same time, politicians are handing out even more millions in tax breaks to big corporations, and squeezing working people while they let the rich get off without paying their fair share. The top 1 percent pay only 5.3% of their income in sales, property and income taxes, while the average working person pays twice that rate. And 2 in 3 Illinois corporations pay no corporate income tax at all!

And things are getting worse... The temporary tax increase is set to expire at the end of 2014, costing the state some \$5 billion a year and threatening unthinkable further cuts to education, public safety, human services and jobs.

The Solution!

A Better Illinois. AFSCME is one of more than 100 organizations endorsing the “A Better Illinois” campaign to replace the broken “flat tax” with a fair tax—one that allows higher rates for rich people and big corporations with higher incomes, and lower rates for working people and small businesses.

A Better Illinois is committed to taking back the state from the politicians, corporations and special interests. The campaign is a people-powered effort to re-focus our state government on the right priorities: good schools, safe streets and a strong safety net. Growing the middle class with good jobs and thriving small businesses. And doing so based on a *fair* tax system.

How We Get There

The fair tax requires amending the Illinois Constitution. This can only be done by the state Senate and House each passing a resolution with a super-majority, then putting the question on the ballot for approval by the voters. Today, more than 60 legislators are co-sponsoring the legislation and 150,000 voters have signed petitions supporting the goals of A Better Illinois.

We can do it! A statewide poll found that 92% of voters agree that “the tax system in Illinois is broken and needs to be fixed,” 82% say that “too often, rich people avoid paying their fair of taxes” and 77% support an amendment to allow a fair tax in Illinois.

We Must Do Our Part

AFSCME members have an important role to play in building A Better Illinois. We live in every part of the state. We are active in our communities. And we can speak firsthand about how the essential public services we provide are threatened and under attack.

A Better Illinois aims to gather hundreds of thousands of petition signatures. This will demonstrate the deep and broad support of voters from both parties and every part of the state for the campaign’s agenda, including the fair tax plan.

Your involvement is key. The first step is to sign the A Better Illinois petition right away to demand that our legislators give citizens the opportunity to decide this issue for themselves. Then take a petition home and get your family and friends to sign too. We have to make sure that legislators vote to put the Fair Tax on the ballot next November.