



FAIR TAX AND THE COVID CRISIS

GUIDANCE ON DISCUSSING THE FAIR TAX DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- The pandemic crisis is a public health emergency and an economic disaster. Everyone's focus, as it should be, is on protecting the health and safety of the people of Illinois while making sure they have the help they need--whether that is health care, unemployment assistance, paid leave, child care, remote learning and much more. Every partner in our Vote Yes for Fair Tax coalition is involved in that work in some way, and they are needed now more than ever.
- Fair tax reform has always been about fixing the unfair, inadequate old way of taxing income in Illinois. This crisis reinforces the need to bring tax fairness to Illinois while ensuring that state and local governments have the resources they need to serve our communities.
- The old tax system is unfair (working people now pay twice as much as wealthy people as a share of their income) and inadequate (forcing harmful cuts to state and local governments while pushing up property taxes). Nothing about this crisis changes that.
- This crisis underscores racial inequities that already plague our communities: Frontline workers who cannot work remotely are at increased risk of exposure. Seniors and people with underlying health conditions face a greater threat of severe illness. Lower-income individuals and families are less able to withstand the loss of jobs and income. And people of color are disproportionately represented in all these groups. Fair tax reform is an important step to address these inequities, allowing anyone who makes less than \$250,000 a year to get a tax cut (or pay no more than they do now) while generating the resources needed to make real investments in programs and services that help ensure everyone is safe and can thrive.
- Now more than ever we need fair tax reform to help lift the burden from middle class families and those struggling to get there (the 97% of tax filers earning less than \$250,000 will get a tax cut or pay no more than they do now). In fact, as unemployment rates soar because of the pandemic, working people are even more in need of a just tax system.
- And now more than ever we need to fund essential priorities like public health, education, public safety, social services and jobs. These sectors have been among the hardest hit economically by the pandemic. This crisis has exposed how inadequate our current tax system is at funding the critical health services we are counting on to protect us, and it unfairly burdens those on the frontlines right now.
- Vote Yes for Fair Tax will continue to educate communities on the Fair Tax while abiding by public health requirements.