

FAIR TAX FOR ILLINOIS

FAIR
TAX
NOW

Responsible
Budget
Coalition

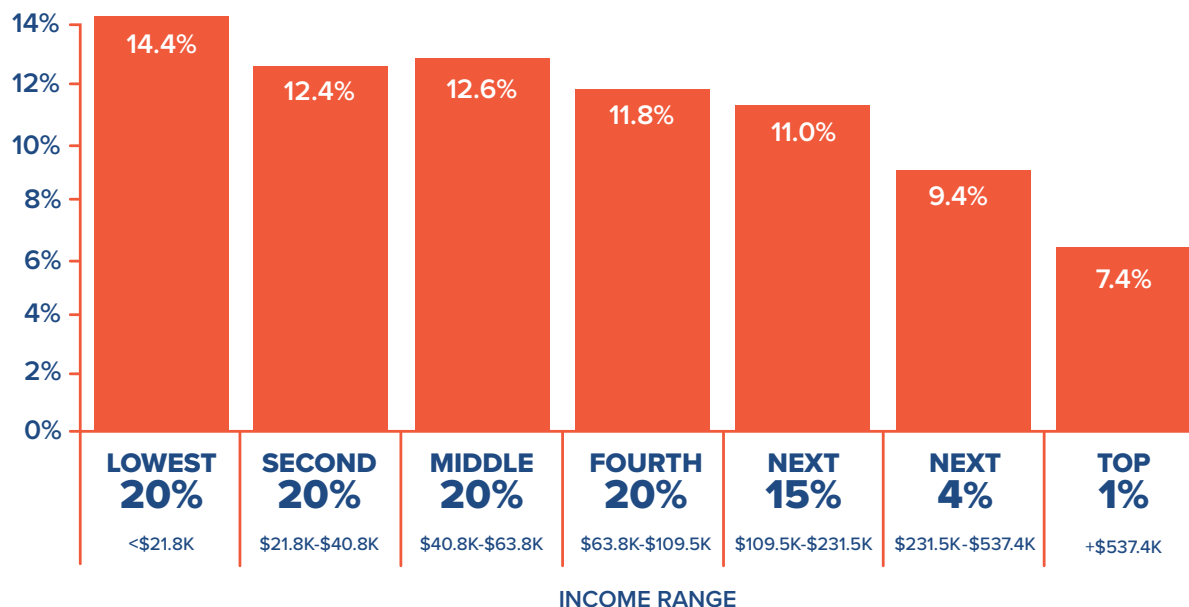
THE ILLINOIS INCOME TAX STRUCTURE IS POORLY DESIGNED AND UNSUSTAINABLE



- ▶ Illinois needs a long-term solution to our state's fiscal problems—now. **A fair tax, with lower rates for the middle class and higher rates for higher incomes, will help** to ensure Illinois' financial stability and get our fiscal house in order.
- ▶ Illinois is one of only nine states in the U.S. that has a flat income tax structure and is **one of only four states** that constitutionally requires a flat income tax.
- ▶ The federal government and 32 states, including Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin, apply higher tax rates to higher incomes and lower tax rates to lower incomes.
- ▶ For the past several decades, virtually **all income growth has been made at the top income levels**. A flat tax fails to capture that growth.

TOTAL STATE & LOCAL TAXES IN ILLINOIS, 2018 (ITEP)

Shares of Family Income



REPAIRING THE DAMAGE CREATED BY THE BUDGET CRISIS



- ▶ **61,700 fewer students** were enrolled in public universities and colleges across Illinois (Illinois Economic Policy Institute).
- ▶ **22,000 seniors outside of Chicago** have lost access to services such as home delivered meals, transportation, and help accessing resources (Age Options).
- ▶ **As rates of opioid addiction steadily rise, over 24,000 fewer Illinoisians** were admitted to addiction treatment services (Illinois Association for Behavioral Health).
- ▶ **Nearly 47,000 fewer children** receive childcare assistance (SEIU Healthcare).
- ▶ **In 2016, more than 3,600 adults and 4,200 children** seeking shelter due to domestic violence were turned away because of shelter closings, staff reductions, and termination of programs (Chicago Foundation for Women).

ILLINOISANS WANT A FAIR TAX

According to a 2018 poll conducted by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at SIU Carbondale, 72 percent of people in Illinois support amending the constitution to allow for a fair tax.

This includes 51 percent of Republicans, 68 percent of people living down-state, and 66 percent of individuals earning over \$100,000.

A FAIR TAX WOULD IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ILLINOISANS

Providing Illinois with the revenue needed for public investment must come first. As seen throughout the two years that Illinois went without a budget, families, businesses, social service providers, and schools suffer when there isn't enough revenue.

A fair tax could bolster funding needed for critical public investments without balancing the budget on the backs of low- and middle-income families.