



## Top 5 reasons to VOTE YES on the Fair Tax Constitutional Amendment:

1. **It fixes a broken tax system.** The old way of taxing income in Illinois taxes everyone at the same rate, including millionaires and billionaires. By voting YES on the constitutional amendment you will be able to enact a higher tax rate on income over \$250,000, fixing a system that has always placed a heavier burden on middle and lower-income families. Anyone under \$250,000 stays the same or pays less.
2. **Retirement income is protected.** Retirement income is protected from taxation by state law in Illinois. Nothing in the amendment changes that. AARP supports the Fair Tax Amendment.
3. **Flat taxes are unfair.** Illinois is one of only 11 states that levy a flat tax, which means everyone is taxed at the same rate regardless of their income level – and when taxes are raised, they must go up for everyone. According to the Institute of Taxation and Economic Policy, middle and lower-income families pay more of a share of their income under flat tax systems. The Fair Tax Amendment (and the state law that takes effect upon passage) fixes this by mandating a higher tax bracket for the rich.
4. **State revenue increases without the middle class paying more.** The Fair Tax will increase state revenue by an estimated \$3.5 billion. This will go to core values like schools, public safety, veterans, and seniors.
5. **Labor supports it.** Unions and the Illinois AFL-CIO are united in supporting the Fair Tax. Fixing the state's failed tax system has long been a priority and now union families and all voters have a chance to make this change without political roadblocks.



## Fair Tax Facts

1. **FACT: Fair Tax Constitutional Amendment language on the ballot for November 3, 2020 election**

*"The proposed amendment grants the State authority to impose higher income tax rates on higher income levels, which is how the federal government and a majority of other states do it. The amendment would remove the portion of the Revenue Article of the Illinois Constitution that is sometimes referred to as the "flat tax," that requires all taxes on income to be at the same rate. The amendment does not itself change tax rates. It gives the State the ability to impose higher tax rates on those with higher income levels and lower tax rates on those with middle or lower income levels. You are asked to decide whether the proposed amendment should become a part of the Illinois Constitution."*

<https://ilqa.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=&SessionId=109&GA=101&DocTypeId=SJR&DocNum=1&GAID=15&LegID=126926&SpecSess=1&Session=1>

2. **FACT: The Illinois legislature established higher tax rates on the wealthy that take effect if the amendment is passed by voters in November.**

*The new rates create a higher tax rate only for income over \$250,000. Those making less will pay the same or less. <https://ilqa.gov/legislation/publicacts/101/101-0008.htm>*

3. **FACT: Retirement income is protected by law from state taxation and will not be taxed under the amendment.**

*AARP supports the Fair Tax saying "AARP supports the current graduated income tax proposals which, in no way, taxes retirement income or makes it any easier to implement a tax on retirement income. Illinois state law continues to protect retirement income from taxation, including Social Security, pensions, 401(k)s, and IRAs." (Statement by AARP State Director Bob Gallo on June 18)*

4. **FACT: The old way of taxing income in Illinois mandates that when taxes are raised, they go up for everyone, no matter the income level.**

*The Fair Tax Amendment allows Illinois to join 33 other states in shifting more of the tax burden from middle and low-income earners to the wealthy. (Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, April 2018)*

5. **FACT: The revenue generated will create less reliance on property taxes and generate more than \$3.5 billion in revenue to invest in core values like schools, health care, veterans, and seniors.**

*(Governor's Office of Management and Budget, 2019)*