

Dear LWV HP/HWD Members and Friends,

Our League Mission is to Educate! I believe it is our duty to educate our fellow Voters.

I have been attending LWV State Meetings as our Fair Tax Specialist since June. I have also attended meetings opposed to the Fair Tax. I am writing to share what I have learned.

Millions are being spent to spread misinformation about the Fair Tax. It is our responsibility to understand the facts.

I'm afraid that most voters don't even know that the amendment is on the ballot. If they are and only seeing the expensive ads against Fair Tax, they won't be able to vote wisely.

The Fair Tax will result in higher income taxes for those making over \$250,000 and less or equal income tax for 97% of taxpayers in Illinois. The link following shows the Fair Tax impact on your taxes <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/fairtax/Pages/default.aspx> .

The Fair Tax amendment will result in greater revenue for the State of Illinois. Illinois has suffered a prolonged state budget crisis, creating a large debt, and without the Fair Tax, it will have to either raise taxes for everyone (with the present Flat Tax) or cutback further (as in the past) money designated for essential social services and education.

Most states, D.C. and the federal government have graduated income taxes. 33 out of the 34 states that have switched to graduated income tax have not raised taxes on the lower and middle classes. Connecticut is the only exception.

Currently Illinois does not tax income from pensions or retirement accounts. Because of Illinois' debt, these accounts are now more likely to be taxed to help reduce the debt. The Fair Tax will bring in additional revenue reducing that debt, without taxing retirement income.

97% of **small businesses** and farms will pay less state taxes.

Illinois has one of the highest Property Tax Rates in the United States. Our current tax system is not adequately funding schools, so local communities must fund schools through property taxes. A Fair Tax (graduated tax) in Illinois will allow increased funding for education and basic social services, lessening the burden on communities and eventually lowering property taxes.

This year the pandemic is causing additional budget pressures. If similar budget pressures exist in subsequent years (not unlikely), there will be more pressure to lower the threshold at which taxpayers pay higher rates.

This pressure will lead to raising the Flat Rate Tax on all taxpayers if we do not pass the Fair Tax. The Fair Tax will apportion the burden with sensitivity to who is able to pay. The proposed threshold is consistent with neighboring states, and there is no reason to speculate that it will be lowered, or raised, in the future.

Given what I have learned, I am voting YES for the Fair Tax Amendment. I urge you to do the same and share this information with everyone you know.

Best regards,

Marlene Senescu

Leadership Team, Fair Tax Specialist

