



Summer 2020: How Surrogates Can Push Back On Attacks Against The Fair Tax

- **WHEN THEY SAY:** The Fair Tax will give the legislature a blank check to raise taxes on Illinoisans whenever they want.
 - **YOU SAY:** The legislature will have the same power if the Fair Tax is passed as they do now. The only difference is Illinois would finally have a tax structure that is employed by a majority of states and the federal government where the wealthiest pay their fair share. Without the fair tax, taxes would have to be raised on all Illinoisans by at least 20% to address our structural deficit.
- **WHEN THEY SAY:** The solution to Illinois' problems is cutting spending.
 - **YOU SAY:** We tried that under the previous administration, and it didn't work. Illinois is in a massive budget crisis, and critical services we rely on are drastically underfunded.
 - Cuts under the previous administration left our roads and bridges crumbling and our education system decimated. Cutting additional spending will only make this worse and cause more middle and lower-income families to leave the state in search of better opportunities.
- **WHEN THEY SAY:** Small businesses are already hurting for the impact of the Coronavirus crisis and can't afford a tax increase.
 - **YOU SAY:** We agree! Unless you are a small business owner making more than \$250,000 a year in profit, you will not see an income tax increase under the Fair Tax. Businesses want a stable fiscal environment, an educated work force, and a place where employees want to live, work and raise a family. The Fair Tax will help make that a reality.
- **WHEN THEY SAY:** Governor Pritzker and Democrats already raised your taxes last session – doubling the gas tax and instituting a number of new taxes and fees on other services. This is just the next money grab.

- **YOU SAY:** The Fair Tax is about making our current tax system more fair and bringing it in line with how the federal government and a majority of states tax income. This will fundamentally change the trajectory of our state, while ensuring at least 97% of Illinoisans see no income tax increase, with only those making more than \$250,000 a year paying more.
- **WHEN THEY SAY:** The Fair Tax is going to lead to a tax increase on middle-class families.
 - **YOU SAY:** The Fair Tax means at least 97% of Illinoisans will see no income tax increase, and many middle and lower-class families will actually see a tax cut. Only those making more than \$250,000 a year will see a tax increase. But, if we do not pass the Fair Tax, taxes will have to be raised by at least 20% on all Illinoisans.
- **WHEN THEY SAY:** Pensions are the real problem with Illinois' finances. We should have a constitutional amendment for pension reform.
 - **YOU SAY:** Nothing is more important to the future of our state's fiscal stability and success than passing the Fair Tax. That's why we're doing everything we can to make sure it passes in November.
- **WHEN THEY SAY:** The wealthiest Illinoisans will leave the state if they're finally forced to pay their share.
 - **YOU SAY:** There is no research to back this claim up. In fact, research shows there is actually no correlation between a state's tax rates and the likelihood a high-income family leaves the state. Just look at California – they have more millionaires than any other state and their top tax rate is 13%.
 - Middle and lower-income Illinoisans have been fleeing the state for years after the Rauner administration left our education system decimated. The Fair Tax will bring in much-needed revenue to get our state back on track and keep these families in Illinois.
- **WHEN THEY SAY:** A fair tax is a "jobs tax."
 - **YOU SAY:** This is a desperate attack that has repeatedly been debunked by independent organizations like PolitiFact, which said "While there's no official definition for a 'jobs tax,' it's pretty clear Pritzker's plan doesn't contain one."
- **WHEN THEY SAY:** If we're going to be taking action on taxes, it should be property taxes. Property taxes are too high in Illinois.
 - **YOU SAY:** I agree that property taxes in Illinois are too high, and the Fair Tax will help alleviate that burden. Our current tax system is failing on its obligation to fund our schools. Our education system only gets about 25% of its funding from the state, while the national average is about 50%, leaving local communities responsible for funding our schools through property taxes. The Fair Tax will generate additional revenue that

will go towards our education system, lessening the burden on communities and therefore lowering property taxes.

- **WHEN THEY SAY:** Businesses are going to leave the state if they have to pay more in taxes
 - **YOU SAY:** That's false. Businesses want a stable fiscal environment, an educated work force, and a place where employees want to live, work and raise a family. The Fair Tax will address our financial situation and bring fiscal stability to Illinois, while generation additional revenue to fund our education system and other critical programs.
- **WHEN THEY SAY:** The Fair Tax has a marriage penalty
 - **YOU SAY:** 97% of Illinoisans would see their taxes go down or stay the same under the Fair Tax, and that includes joint filers.
- **WHEN THEY SAY:** There's so much corruption in Springfield. We can't trust politicians with more money.
 - **YOU SAY:** The Fair Tax is about updating our outdated system to one that the majority of states and the federal government use. It's about ensuring we have a tax system that is fair and works for everyone, not just the wealthy few.
- **WHEN THEY SAY:** Look what happened to Connecticut; they passed a progressive income tax and it tanked their economy.
 - **YOU SAY:** There are a number of reasons why Connecticut's economy is suffering that have nothing to do with the Fair Tax. Illinois' current tax system is fundamentally unfair, and the Fair Tax will bring it in line with the system a majority of states and the federal government use, while ensuring it works for everyone, not just the wealthy few.