



## Invest in Our Recovery, Invest in Our Future

### It's Time for Million-Dollar Earners to Pay Their Fair Share!

To help working families, to ensure Massachusetts stays a great place to live, work, and raise a family, and to build a stronger economy for us all, we need to make sure we have **high-quality public schools and colleges and a transportation system that works**. Without investments in these common goals, working families fall behind and our communities suffer.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, Massachusetts' economy was working great for those at the top, but that prosperity wasn't reaching most of our people and communities. Our transportation infrastructure was falling apart. Our public colleges were underfunded and increasingly unaffordable, and our public education system wasn't providing equal opportunity to all students. For years, Massachusetts' communities of color have been harmed by inequitable and inadequate access to transportation and public education. Now, **the pandemic has heightened these economic and racial inequities that prevent broadly shared prosperity**.

As we recover from the pandemic and in the future, **new revenue is necessary** to improve our public schools and pre-K programs; rebuild crumbling roads, bridges, sidewalks, and bike paths; make high-quality public higher education affordable; and invest in fast and reliable public transportation. Long before the pandemic, we needed new investments in our transportation and public education systems, and **now those investments are needed more than ever** to lift our economy into an equitable recovery and tackle the longstanding racial inequities that hold our state back from its full potential.

#### About Raise Up Massachusetts

*Raise Up Massachusetts is a coalition of community organizations, faith-based groups, and labor unions committed to building an economy that invests in families, gives everyone the opportunity to succeed, and creates broadly shared prosperity. Since our coalition came together in 2013, we have nearly doubled wages for hundreds of thousands of working people by winning two increases in the state's minimum wage, won best-in-the-nation earned sick time and paid family and medical leave benefits for workers and their families, led the campaign for the Fair Share Amendment to invest in transportation and public education, and started to build an economy that works for all of us, not just those at the top.*



## **About the Fair Share Amendment**

**It's time for million-dollar earners to pay their fair share to support our economic recovery and the public services we all depend on.** That's the best – and most popular – way to raise substantial new revenue for investments in transportation and public education.

For years, the highest-income households in Massachusetts – those in the top 1 percent – have paid a smaller share of their income in state and local taxes than any other income group. They've also benefited from repeated federal tax cuts: 83 percent of the 2017 tax bill's benefits [went to](#) the top 1 percent, and in 2020, the federal CARES Act [included](#) \$135 billion in tax breaks for wealthy business owners. **And while countless people and small businesses suffered during the COVID-19 crisis, wealthy executives and investors saw their incomes skyrocket.** The 19 billionaires in Massachusetts saw their wealth [increase](#) by a total of \$17 billion during the first three months of the COVID-19 pandemic alone.

The Fair Share Amendment is a proposal to amend the Massachusetts Constitution, creating an **additional tax of four percentage points on the portion of a person's annual income above \$1 million.** The new revenue, approximately \$2 billion a year, would be spent on **"quality public education and affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation."** To ensure that the amendment continues to apply only to the highest income taxpayers, who have the ability to pay more, the \$1 million threshold would be adjusted each year to reflect cost-of-living increases.

In June 2021, with a vote of 159 in favor to 41 opposed, the Legislature's Constitutional Convention voted to place the Fair Share Amendment on the November 2022 statewide ballot, where it is now set to be decided on by the voters. Independent [polling](#) conducted by MassINC in December 2020 found that 72 percent of MA voters support the Fair Share Amendment.

**Our wealthiest residents can clearly afford to pay a little more to fund the investments we all need. It's time to pass the Fair Share Amendment and invest in our future!**

**Take action and get involved: [raiseupma.org](https://raiseupma.org)**