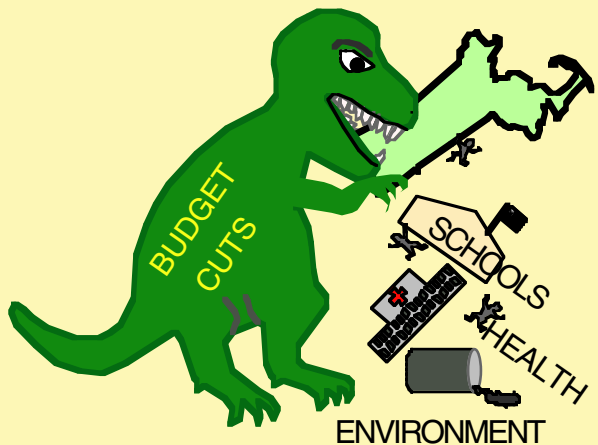


Stand Up for Our Communities



The \$2 billion in threatened program cuts are:

UNWISE because they hurt our economy and our communities

UNFAIR because they fall heavily on people who can least afford them

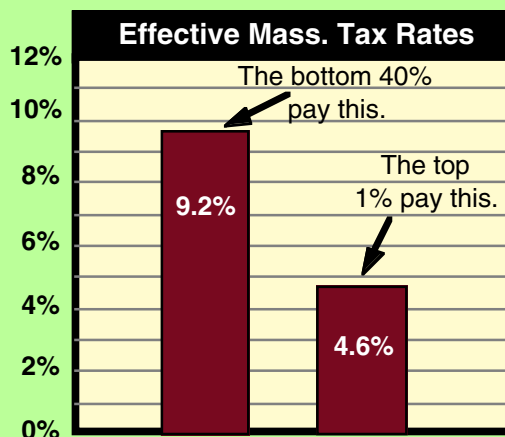
UNNECESSARY because we can raise the revenues needed to avoid the cuts

A better solution: *Tax Fairness*

Because of loopholes and special deductions, the wealthiest taxpayers now pay *at about half the rate that other people pay* in state and local taxes.

If everyone contributed their fair share:

- The \$2 billion budget shortfall would be eliminated.
- Most people would receive tax relief.



- Please call your legislator now. Ask them to stop the program cuts by supporting tax fairness.

(For telephone numbers and talking points go to www.masschc.org)

- Sign the Fair Taxes for Healthy Communities petition.
- Join us in speaking out for our communities.

Cut loopholes, NOT vital services!

To find out more, contact Massachusetts Coalition for Healthy Communities, Tel. 781-674-2422, www.masschc.org, info@masschc.org

Massachusetts Coalition for Healthy Communities



How To Stop the Cuts With Fair Tax Solutions

Major budget cuts are devastating essential services.

- Cuts in local aid are forcing layoffs of teachers and school closings.
- Support has been cut back or eliminated for critical health programs - hospitals, teen pregnancy prevention, drug abuse treatment, smoking cessation, prescription drugs for seniors, and home care for frail elders.
- Fees for public higher education will increase by hundreds of dollars per student.
- Cutbacks in environmental programs will slow the clean up of hazardous waste sites and threaten the protection of water and air quality.
- Support for affordable housing programs and rental assistance has been cut.
- And much more!

Did you know?

- Over \$3.7 billion was given away in tax breaks largely for the wealthy over the past decade. Ending these tax give-aways would close the budget gap.
- The richest 1% of taxpayers are paying only half as much of their income in state and local taxes as the lower 40% of taxpayers are paying.
- If the richest 20% were paying at the same rate as lower income taxpayers, there would be more than enough money to cover essential services.

Some Fair Tax Solutions that could solve the budget crisis:

- Close corporate loopholes.
- Increase the income tax rate, but raise the personal exemption & rental deduction.
- End the sales tax exemption for selected services (lobbyists, financial services, lawyers, etc.)
- Tax intangible property (stocks and bonds), exempting the first \$30,000.
- End the sales tax exemption for high end real estate sales.
- Tax harmful pollution. This will create incentives for healthier production and compensate the public for health damages and clean-up costs.

Call your State Representative now!

- Thank those who voted “YES”- to raise revenue fairly and save vital programs.
- Tell those who voted “NO”- to change their position if they want our votes next election.
- To find out how your rep voted, and how to contact your rep, see www.masschc.org, or call 781-674-2422.

