

BALANCE OUR TAX CODE

2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

In Washington, we define ourselves by how we treat each other, not by what we look like or what's in our wallets. But for decades, working people have been footing the bill for our public schools, health care, and the social services our communities share.

When wealthy people and corporations make backroom deals to block progressive tax policies, they are using their power to dodge their tax responsibility to the communities they live in. By refusing to pay what they truly owe, they compromise the wellbeing of working people, small business owners, and communities of color. It doesn't have to be this way.

Our tax code continues to be one of the most upside-down in the nation, with low-wage workers paying three times more of their incomes in local taxes than their wealthy neighbors. By maintaining a tax code where the wealthiest don't have to pay their share,

our lawmakers have put the programs that working people rely on in our state at critical risk. Legislators have a choice when balancing the budget - design progressive taxes based on ability to pay, raise regressive taxes on ordinary people, or make cuts to human services and put lives at risk. The choice is clear. We must make the wealthy pay what they owe to fund the housing, education, and health care that all Washingtonians depend on.

Washingtonians don't just blindly favor tax cuts - we care about who is paying taxes and how.

2026 Checklist for Progressive Revenue

SB 5797/HB 2046: Tax on Financial Assets. To fund a bright future for every student, we can enact a small tax paid only by people with Wall Street wealth in excess of \$50 million. This would raise \$1-4 billion dollars per year for our public schools, special education services, and the educators that are shaping the next generation.

SB 5796: High Salary Payroll Tax. Wealthy corporations are not required to pay most payroll taxes for critical state-funded employee supports, like paid family medical leave, on employee salaries above \$184,500. Removing this arbitrary cap could provide more than \$2 billion per year for Washington's social safety programs, public schools, and health care.

We broadly stand in support of new, progressive revenue and policy proposals that align with our values, and recognize that this checklist may change. We support both raising new revenue and directing that revenue to ensure that working families have what they need to thrive: from health care, to housing, to food.

Ideas we support include:

Putting cash back in the pockets of those most impacted by Washington's upside-down tax code.

Making sure that the wealthiest pay what they truly owe through taxes and disrupting the inequitable concentration of wealth.

Developing progressive solutions to equitably fund our communities through access to transportation systems, homes that are affordable for everyone, and relief from the impacts of climate change.



Balance Our Tax Code is a coalition made up of more than 100 labor unions, non-profits, community-based organizations, housing and community associations, human service providers, immigrant rights advocates, and activists. Together, we work to educate, advocate, shape public opinion, and pass laws until we have a tax code that supports a way of life that works for all of us, not just the wealthy few. **Contact: emma@balanceourtaxcode.com**