

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, our upside-down tax code has kept working people footing the bill for our public schools, health care, and the social services our communities share.

When wealthy people and corporations spend millions on lobbying and 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, requiring low-wage workers to pay three times more of their annual incomes in state and 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 make life

more affordable for working people in Washington at critical risk. Legislators have a choice when balancing the budget:

- Pass progressive taxes based on ability to pay,
- Raise regressive taxes on ordinary people, or
- Make devastating cuts to human services that put lives at risk.

The choice is clear. We must make the wealthy pay what they truly 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

Millionaires Tax. To keep money in the pockets of everyday Washingtonians while fully funding our schools and health care, we can tax earnings over \$1 million a year at 9.9%. This could raise nearly \$3.5 billion a year from the wealthiest .005% of the working population in Washington, who are not required to pay what they truly owe in state taxes.

HB 2100: Well Washington Fund. Following recent federal cuts, the Well Washington Fund proposal seeks to keep vital funding for higher education, health care, housing, and food assistance programs. This would enact an employer-paid payroll tax on large companies with over \$7 million in payroll and raise more than \$2 billion per year for social programs and services in Washington.

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.

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 by ensuring access to good schools, high quality child care, homes that are affordable for everyone, and cash assistance to those who need it.

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 Washington families have what they need to thrive: from health care, to housing, to food.



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**