

Background on the Fair Tax

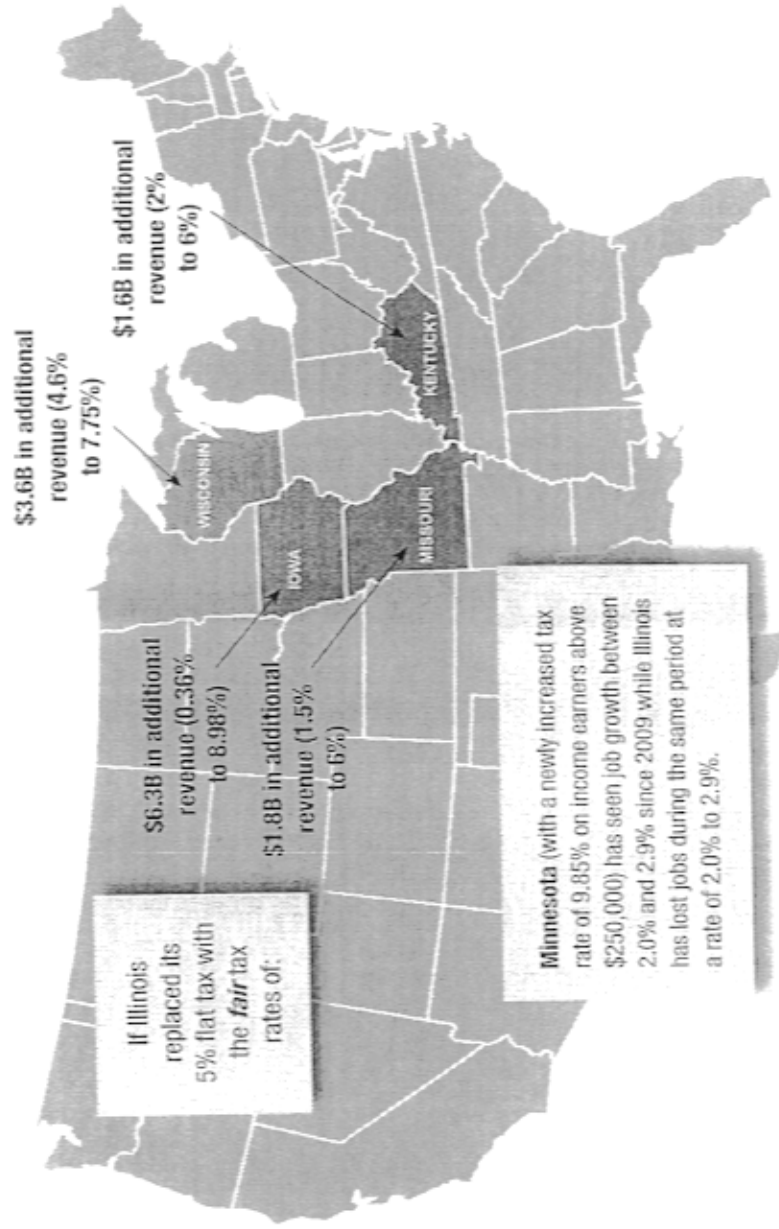
■ Illinois needs a fair tax system with higher rates for people and corporations with higher incomes, and lower rates for people and small businesses with lower incomes. Citizens must demand that state government focus on the right priorities, like good schools, public safety, health care and a strong middle class. By signing this petition, you are telling your legislators that you want a fair tax system where the rich pay more, while easing the squeeze on the middle class and working families. A fair tax system can adequately fund the priorities we share while creating jobs in our state.

■ The current tax system is unfair and broken. The lowest 20 percent of earners pay 13.7 percent of their income in sales, property and income taxes, while the top 1 percent pay only 5.3 percent of their income. A middle-class taxpayer pays double the effective income tax rate that a millionaire pays due to unfair loopholes!

■ Illinois faces a fiscal cliff that could devastate jobs, schools, health care and other public services. If the General Assembly fails to act, the state's income tax rate will fall to 3.75 percent from 5 percent on January 1, 2015, costing our state more than \$4.5 billion in lost revenue in Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016. To put that in perspective, consider that the entire outlay of the State Board of Education — everything state government spends on schools — was roughly \$6.7 billion in FY2012. Without a fair tax, legislators will have to continue to choose either raising the income tax for all Illinoisans or slashing essential shared priorities. There is a better way!

■ The General Assembly in Springfield must pass a resolution putting the fair tax amendment on the Nov. 2014 ballot. Petition signatures will help convince legislators to allow this statewide referendum. Then it will be up to the voters to decide. Sign the petition and demand your state senator and representative allow a referendum on the fair tax!

34 states and the federal government have a fair tax, with higher rates for higher incomes and lower rates for lower incomes.



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To sign the petition and get involved, visit www.ABetterIllinois.org