



FAIR SHARE TAXES: CREATING AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR ALL OF US

THE PROBLEM

We face two big obstacles, among others, to creating an economy that works for all of us.

- First, the gap between the rich and everyone else keeps getting wider. While those at the top are soaring way ahead, working families are struggling.
- Second, the wealthy and corporations are not paying their fair share of taxes. If they did, we could significantly reduce income and wealth inequality by raising trillions of dollars to strengthen Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and to make new investments in healthcare, education, housing, childcare, infrastructure and clean renewable energy.

The passage of the Trump-GOP tax cuts in 2017 made matters much worse. It was a boon mostly for the richest 1% and corporations but created a future revenue loss of \$1.9 trillion over 10 years. To turn this around, and create a just economy, we need to raise trillions of dollars over the next 10 years. We need Fair Share Taxes to create an economy that works for all of us.

THE NEED

Separate from fully funding Medicare for All and a Green New Deal, which will require their own very different and sizable revenue streams, we need to raise about \$10 trillion over 10 years to (rough cost estimates):

- Affordable Care Act public option (\$1.5 trillion)
- Provide affordable childcare and housing (\$2 trillion)
- Make public college free for many and relieve crushing student debt (\$1 trillion)
- Fully fund Title I aid for low-income students, special education & Head Start (\$500 billion)
- Rebuild crumbling infrastructure (\$2 trillion)
- Make a modest down payment on a Green New Deal (\$3 trillion)

THE SOLUTION

Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF) has shown about \$10 trillion can be raised through increased taxes on corporations and the wealthiest Americans in a major report "[Fair Taxes Now](#)" and at this [calculator](#). This very ambitious agenda requires, among other things:

- Taxing the wealth of the very rich each year, not just their income from work
- Equalizing tax rates on income from wealth with income from work
- A much more robust estate tax
- Much higher corporate income tax rates and equal rates between domestic and offshore profits
- A tiny sales tax (10 cents on every \$100) on Wall Street transactions
- A carbon tax to curb global warming

Many presidential candidates have adopted these tax reform proposals as documented by ATF's sister organization, [Americans for Tax Fairness Action Fund](#).

THE OPPOSITION

Achieving Fair Share Taxes faces a united and extremely powerful opposition, one that got religion on taxes decades ago, and prays at the altar of lower taxes and smaller government every day. Progressives have quite a way to go to making Fair Share Taxes a central demand. This has to change, and it's the mission of ATF to support, facilitate, and mobilize toward that change.

The formidable opposition is anchored among conservatives, but potential allies are shaky on tax issues as well. When it comes to the scale of change needed, many progressive members of Congress remain afraid. They're afraid of upsetting donors and angering big local employers. They're afraid of the "tax and spend liberal" label. And they're afraid to demand that the rich and corporations pay their fair share, even when polling shows by wide margins it's a winning issue.

THE WINNING STRATEGY

To build support among progressive policymakers and robustly fund critical public services and investments, we need to make Fair Share Taxes a core part of the progressive movement's agenda, infuse this message in the progressive economic narrative, and mobilize progressive organizations to action. ATF is leading this work and creating the movement required for change.

- **ATF staffs and provides strategic direction and coordination to a coalition of more than [400 national and state endorsing organizations](#).** We run a dynamic campaign of coalition building, polling and messaging research, national and state communications strategies, field mobilization, development of tax policy and production of public education materials.
- **ATF plays the leading role in shaping messaging in favor of progressive tax reform.** We research and disseminate a winning message for policymakers, coalition partners and the media so that allies are singing from the same songbook. We get 500 to 1,000 media hits a year ([2019 media highlights](#)). Our digital media program has 750,000 email activists, 200,000 [Facebook](#) fans and 10,300 [Twitter](#) fans as of December 2019. We collaborate with Netroots groups and other partners to regularly reach and mobilize millions of online activists.
- **ATF is moving the strategy forward under a single and powerful brand – *Fair Share Taxes: Creating An Economy That Works For All Of Us*.** Just like Medicare for All and a Green New Deal have been successfully branded, ATF is using message research and promotion to get Fair Share Taxes adopted as the brand for the growing movement for progressive tax reform.
- **ATF initiates and builds widespread support for progressive tax reforms that get proposed and debated by policymakers.** This is how we build a movement to raise \$10 trillion. It is also how we will prevent any additional loss of revenue from a possible [Round Two of tax cuts](#) being proposed by President Trump in 2020. ATF has also led and will continue to lead the successful public education campaign documenting the harmful effects of the 2017 Trump-GOP tax cuts.

Wherever you fall on the progressive spectrum and whatever your priorities—a Green New Deal, Medicare for All, expanding the Affordable Care Act, public education—trillions more in revenue is needed to adequately fund the progressive agenda, and that's what ATF is leading the fight for.

For more information about Americans for Tax Fairness and the movement for Fair Share Taxes, please contact Frank Clemente, Executive Director, at 202-441-9818 and fclemente@americansfortaxfairness.org, or visit our [website](#).