



VIRTUAL FAIR TAX TOWN HALL Q&A

General Tips

- Lead with compassion – this is a difficult time, and Illinoisans are concerned about the future of their families, their communities, and their livelihood
- Acknowledge the concerns the questioner has – language like “I hear you,” “I’m sorry you’re going through that,” and “Thank you for sharing your story”
- Pivot back to our core messaging about the Fair Tax and why it will help our state
 - Direct questioners to state and federal government assistance when applicable
 - Filing for unemployment: <https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Small business loans: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov>.
 - Other Illinois resources: coronavirus.illinois.gov

Questions & Answers

I’m a small business owner, and I’ve seen other small business owners say the Fair Tax will hurt us even more. Is that true?

No, that is not true. 97% of Illinoisans, and the overwhelming majority of small businesses will either see their taxes go down or stay the same. If you are a small business owner that makes \$250,000 a year or less in profits, you will likely see no income tax increase.

I’ve lost my job. How will the Fair Tax help?

I’m so sorry to hear that, and we hope you’ll be back to work soon. This crisis has impacted all of our families, and changed so much about our state, but it hasn’t changed the fact that our current tax system is fundamentally unfair. Our current tax system burdens our middle and lower-income families, while letting millionaires and billionaires avoid paying their share. The Fair Tax will set things right, while bringing our tax system in line with the one used by a majority of states and the federal government.

Will the Fair Tax be taken off the ballot?

No, it will not and I’m disappointed to see opponents of the Fair Tax try to use this crisis to score political points. Now more than ever, our state will need the Fair Tax to set things right for our middle and lower-income families. Hundreds of thousands of people have lost their jobs, and many more “essential workers” are risking their health and safety by continuing to go to work. These are the same people who are being hurt by the COVID-19 crisis the most, and they will need relief to get back on track.

My small business has been forced to close its doors, and will stay closed for who knows how long. How will that impact my taxes under the Fair Tax?

I’m sorry to hear that your small business has closed, but appreciate what you are doing to help keep Illinoisans safe. The Fair Tax will only increase taxes on small business owners that see more than \$250,000 in annual profit. Everyone else will see their taxes decrease or stay the same.



How does the Fair Tax help Illinois in the wake of Coronavirus?

Middle and lower-class families who are disproportionately being impacted by the COVID crisis are the same families who are burdened by our current tax system that causes middle and lower-income families to pay nearly twice their income in state and local taxes than the wealthiest Illinoisans. These families are going to need relief, and the Fair Tax will help give it to them, while generating over \$3 billion in additional revenue to help our state get back on track.

Will the Fair Tax generate the revenue we need to dig us out of the even bigger hole our state will be in after the Coronavirus?

Our current tax system is failing because it doesn't generate the revenue needed to fund our state. That's going to be even more apparent in the wake of the COVID crisis. The Fair Tax will generate more than \$3 billion in additional revenue that can go toward addressing our budget deficit, and funding crucial programs like our education system.

I'm a small business owner and can't afford to pay any more in taxes. How can you justify telling people to close their doors and then force them to pay more in taxes?

Small businesses across the state, and across the country, are helping our residents stay safe and healthy, but I know how much their bottom lines are hurting. Only small businesses making more than \$250,000 a year in profit will see their taxes increase. If you make less than that, your taxes will decrease or stay the same.

What will the Fair Tax money be used for now?

The Fair Tax will generate billions more in additional revenue that will go toward helping Illinois address its budget crisis and fund crucial programs like our education system. This will be more important than ever as our state's finances are impacted by the COVID crisis.

The Governor said if the Fair Tax is passed then (whatever issue concerns them) would get more money, is that still the case?

The Fair Tax will generate billions of dollars in additional revenue that will go toward helping Illinois address its budget crisis and fund crucial programs like our education system. This will be more important than ever as our state's finances are impacted by the COVID crisis.