



## Answers to Hard Questions

### **Slippery Slope, I'll be next**

Our focus for tax reform has always been to balance the tax code to make it more progressive, not less. That means bringing equity to the tax code by increasing taxes on the wealthy so that they pay more of what they owe, and taking the pressure off everyone else. No one wants to raise taxes on those who are already paying more than their share.

### **They will move**

Wealthy people maintain residences for the same reasons we do - to be close to family, their jobs, businesses, or school systems, and multiple studies prove this. Progressive taxes are how we fund and create thriving communities in Washington that people want to and love living in, including the wealthy. Tax policy alone is rarely a reason why someone uproots their entire life and family.

### **Why Now?**

The impacts of HR 1 are devastating for anyone who relies on state funded health care, housing, food assistance and more, and our state tax code can't sustain these programs while it's so upside down. Washingtonians see more than ever how wealth inequality impacts the affordability of their daily lives. This millionaires tax is coming at a time when the vast majority of Washingtonians support progressive taxation to fund social programs, and they want the wealthy to pay more of their share.

### **It will get challenged**

We are not afraid of that. Our state has a powerful tool in the Public Investment Impact Disclosure law, which tells voters what will be defunded if a tax is repealed. We know that voters support progressive taxes when they see what funding will be lost if they are repealed as proven by the ballot initiatives with PIIDs on them that were defeated in 2024. Progressive taxes and the things they pay for are popular with Washingtonians.

### **They will dodge the tax**

While it's true that armies of accountants and lawyers are paid to help people avoid taxes, it is not true that every wealthy person is a tax cheat. Good tax policy includes enforcement mechanisms including residency requirements. We are writing enforceable policy.

### **Bad for the economy**

Our economy is strongest when people have money to spend. That's why this isn't about who pays the tax - it's about where that money goes. When we expand the working families tax credit, or lower the sales tax, or lower property taxes, the people with the least amount of money now have more money to spend, and they spend that money in their communities, at local businesses, giving the economy a boost from the neighborhood level.

**Wasteful spending**

With this tax we are paying for quality childcare so that kids can learn and parents can go to work. We're paying for updated technology in our schools, mental health counselors, and playground equipment. We're paying for access to doctors that President Trump took away from Washington families. It's not wasteful to ensure that our people are healthy and educated. In fact, healthy and educated people are how we keep our economy strong.

**Isn't this tax unconstitutional?**

We are not attorneys or constitutional experts, we are advocates who want a more fair tax code. Whether this policy is litigated is not up to us, but if it is, we trust the courts to decide its legality.

**I my constituents I'd never support an income tax**

My promises about tax policy have always been rooted in my values and desire to not increase taxes on low and middle income families, who make up the vast majority of people in my district. I am standing by that promise. This millionaires tax is the best way to achieve our goals of balancing the tax code so that the wealthy start to pay what they truly owe, and give us tools to take some pressure off ordinary Washingtonians and fund the programs people need.

**The Legislature recently passed a ban income taxes**

Our job as legislators is to update laws every year to reflect the needs and realities of the communities we serve. Right now, our communities need serious relief. This is not a broad based tax. This Millionaires Tax is highly targeted to be paid only by those with the highest earnings in our state, roughly 20,000 Washingtonians, and will fund the programs and services people need to live healthy lives.