

# PEOPLE **OVER** PROFITS

## THE CHALLENGE

**For decades, Illinois has faced a structural revenue problem.** Our tax system asks working families to carry too much of the load while the wealthiest individuals and corporations contribute far less than their fair share. The result has been persistent underinvestment in public education, health care, higher education, and essential services in communities across the state.

**This is not a spending problem—it is a revenue problem**

## THE FEDERAL THREAT

**Today, the federal government is making this challenge more severe.** Washington is cutting funding for Medicaid, SNAP, and education—not to reduce deficits, but to finance massive tax breaks for billionaires and increased funding for enforcement agencies like ICE.

For Illinois schools, the consequences are immediate. Federal funding makes up 7–12% of district budgets statewide—nearly \$1.7 billion annually. As these dollars are reduced, districts are forced to cut Title I programs, special education services, and teacher training, directly harming students with the greatest needs and widening inequities across the state.

These federal decisions shift costs onto states and local communities, leaving Illinois to absorb the damage.

## THE CHOICE

**Illinois does not have to accept this outcome.** We can Trump-proof our state by adopting progressive, equitable, and sustainable revenue solutions that ask the wealthiest to pay their fair share and protect the services families rely on. Revenue choices determine whether classrooms are supported, health care remains accessible, and communities stay strong in the face of federal disinvestment.

## OUR VISION

We envision an Illinois where every child attends a fully funded public school, every student can afford higher education, and every family has access to quality, affordable health care. A state that invests in people—not tax giveaways—and meets federal disinvestment with state leadership.

**Trump-proofing Illinois means choosing fairness, stability, and shared prosperity—for all.**



Illinois Federation of Teachers  
*A Union of Professionals*

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# WE DEMAND FAIR FUNDING

## TALKING POINTS

### WHO WE ARE

- › We are the educators, higher education workers, and public employees who educate students, keep campuses running, and deliver essential public services in every corner of the state.

### WE'RE HERE TODAY

- › To urge the Governor and lawmakers to secure progressive, sustainable revenue by asking the ultra-wealthy to pay their fair share.
- › Because Illinois families should not pay the price for Trump-era tax giveaways to billionaires.
- › To protect and fully fund public education at every level, health care, housing, food access, and state services.
- › Because investment — not austerity — should be the responsible antidote to federal chaos.

### THE FEDERAL CONTEXT

- › A majority of Americans cannot afford a \$1,000 emergency, yet recent GOP tax cuts are draining funds from Medicaid, SNAP, and public services.
- › Those same policies expand funding for federal enforcement agencies like ICE while delivering massive windfalls to the top 5% of earners.
- › Under Trump-era tax breaks, people making over \$1 million/year will receive \$114 billion in tax benefits in 2027 alone.

### WHY STATE ACTION IS URGENT

- › As the federal government pulls back, states must step up — and Illinois has both the capacity and the obligation to lead.
- › Illinois should partner with labor, educators, and communities to return state-generated revenue to the people who created it.

### K-12 IMPACT

- › Full funding would lower class sizes and ensure access to counselors, nurses, and mental health practitioners.
- › Chronic underfunding forces districts into impossible tradeoffs that hurt students, educators, and families.
- › Illinois' children should not suffer because the wealthiest refuse to contribute their fair share.

### HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT

- › Public universities are being starved of resources while students are priced out of opportunity.
- › Fair revenue would stabilize campuses, strengthen institutions, and make college more affordable.
- › Education from pre-K to PhD is a public good — and must be funded like one.

### STATE SERVICES AND HEALTH CARE

- › It would preserve the state workforce, food access, housing supports, and the safety net families rely on during economic uncertainty.
- › Fair revenue would protect health care for hundreds of thousands of working people.

### OUR CALL TO ACTION

- › Secure progressive revenue by demanding the ultra-wealthy to pay their fair share.
- › Fully fund education, health care, higher education, and state services.
- › Trump-proof Illinois by prioritizing working people over billionaire profits.
- › Deliver the revenue that was promised — and that Illinois families need.
- › Illinois' children should not suffer because the wealthiest refuse to contribute their fair share.