



# Progressive Revenue 101

**Why Philly MUST tax corporations and ultra-wealthy hoarders to fund city services!**

## **What is progressive revenue?**

When the % of tax paid by wealthier people gets progressively higher.

## **So regressive revenue is....?**

The opposite of progressive! Policies that let the ultra-wealthy decrease payments ( “tax loopholes/deductibles”), or flat taxes that collect the same rate from all taxpayers.

## **Why do we need progressive revenue?**

Progressive taxes provide a better standard of living for everyone and fuel the economy when paired with systems that support poor communities and communities of color. Taking a higher % of income from ultra-wealthy will not affect their standard of living nearly as much as taking that money from lower earners.

## **Does Pennsylvania currently have progressive taxation?**

**NO.** Pennsylvania is in the TOP 10 worst states for regressive taxation due to a “uniformity clause” in the PA constitution that mandates flat income tax causing the bottom 20% of earners pay 13.8% of their income and the top 1% to pay only 6% of their income! But even with the “uniformity clause,” Philadelphia CAN move towards progressive taxation!

## **What happened to Philly’s revenue with the start of COVID-19?**

Philly is losing wage-tax revenue from businesses leaving the city and suburban commuters working from home. While this year’s budget might benefit from the federal stimulus, a one time fix will NOT erase decades of underinvestment in services.

## **So is the Kenney administration trying to increase its revenue?**

NOT AT ALL! They’re even considering cutting wage and business taxes. The administration has yet to look into the ways to increase revenue that progressive orgs in our city suggest.

## **What do we need to do to start raising revenue from progressive sources in Philly?**

Call on the government to enact progressive revenue policies and create structural, legal, and budget systems that also support the poor.

**Visit [TaxTheRichPHL.org](https://TaxTheRichPHL.org) to learn more and sign our petition!**



## There Is Plenty of Money to Fund 21st Century Healthy Schools!

For decades, parents, educators and students have fought for 21st century healthy and green school buildings. **But the School District of Philadelphia, the state and the city have constantly said, “there isn’t enough money” and “new schools will bankrupt us.”**

### But What’s Really Going On?

**MYTH:** There’s not enough money to pay the ~\$7 billion needed for 21st century healthy school buildings.  
**FACT:** With political will, our elected officials can find money, Washington DC spent over \$5 billion to redo over 75% of school buildings! President Biden’s stimulus package is bringing huge resources to Philly and PA. ***We can demand money for our schools!***

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**MYTH:** The School District doesn’t have capacity to renovate schools all at once, and it will waste money.  
**FACT:** ***We must hold the District accountable to doing better and providing what our kids need.*** We can do this by: auditing to ensure transparency, sharing ALL information, engaging families in cleanup plans, and providing real community oversight.

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**MYTH:** Borrowing the \$7 billion we need to repair our schools will bankrupt the city in debt, fees and interest.  
**FACT:** When Philly needs money, we take out bonds from Wall Street. Banks make millions off city budgets, while charging us huge overdraft fees and foreclosing on our homes. ***Big Banks should give us no-cost, no-fee, no-interest bonds to fund our schools.***

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## How to Fund 21st Century Healthy and Green Schools NOW

**Federal Stimulus Money:** Biden’s April ‘21 federal stimulus included billions of dollars for public education in PA but we can’t use it due to blocks by right-wing legislators! With pressure, we could release billions for our schools. Congress is also voting on an ‘infrastructure’ bill that includes school buildings funding. This is a huge infusion of resources!

**No-Cost Bonds:** After years of corporate tax evasion, School Districts & municipalities must borrow money for large renovations. But Big Banks like Wells Fargo & US Bank make billions in fees & interest when our schools need loans, while Wall Street’s racist & predatory lending practices harm Black and Brown neighborhoods. ***We demand no-cost, no-interest, no-fee loans from Wall Street to repair all of our school buildings.***

**Winning Money for Philly:** Philadelphia corporations, universities, and developers don’t pay their fair share! ***We must end the 10-year tax abatement, demand universities pay PILOTS, and enact a municipal wealth tax on those who have the most.***