



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 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!***

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.

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.***

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.***