



## **Why Investing in Transportation and Public Education Matters**

The best way to help working families and build a stronger economy for us all is to make sure that we have quality public schools for our children, affordable public higher education, and a transportation system that allows people get to school or work, lets customers get to businesses, and helps everyone fulfill their daily tasks.

Without investment in these common goals, working families fall behind and our communities suffer. New revenue is necessary to rebuild crumbling roads, bridges, and paths, improve our public schools, invest in fast and reliable public transportation, make public higher education affordable, expand opportunities for healthy walking and bicycling, and give every child access to high-quality early childhood education and preschool programs.

### **What the Fair Share Amendment Would Do**

The Fair Share Amendment would amend the Massachusetts Constitution to create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars, so only those with the highest incomes would pay a little more. To ensure that the tax continues to apply only to the highest income residents, who have the ability to pay more, the one million dollar threshold would be adjusted each year to reflect cost-of-living increases. The new revenue generated by this tax could only be spent on:

**Quality Public Schools:** Students need a well-rounded education, founded on a rich and varied curriculum that includes science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), music, art, and athletics. We need to re-invest in these programs now to give all of our students access to a complete education.

**Affordable Public Colleges and Universities:** Our tuitions and fees are among the highest in the country, and students are forced to take on enormous debt to receive a degree. We need to reinvest in public higher education, to make it affordable for middle and working class students in our state.

**Improved Transportation Infrastructure:** For Massachusetts to compete against other regions around the nation and the globe, we need to invest in modern, reliable transportation: safer roads and bridges, public transportation that works, and safe ways to walk and bike. We have a large backlog of neglected bridges, tunnels, roads, and public transportation infrastructure in need of repair. 446 bridges in Massachusetts are structurally deficient and an estimated \$14.4 billion of bridge repairs are needed. If we don't provide the funding soon to deal with these problems they will only get more dangerous and more expensive to solve in the future.

**Early Education and Preschool:** Our children need high-quality early childhood education and preschool programs to develop early literacy and math skills, build a foundation for STEM learning, and develop social-emotional skills that help them succeed in school and in life. Investing in high-quality early childhood education and preschool programs is critical to creating greater educational attainment for our children and supporting the future economic growth of Massachusetts.

**If Massachusetts is serious about helping working families and building a stronger economy, we must invest in quality public schools, affordable higher education, and a transportation system that works.**

**To get involved in our grassroots movement, go to [www.raiseupma.org](http://www.raiseupma.org)**



## Our Priorities

Raise Up Massachusetts is a grassroots coalition of community organizations, religious groups, and labor unions committed to building an economy that works for all of us. An economy that invests in families, gives everyone the opportunity to succeed, and creates broadly shared prosperity.

We are united to ensure Massachusetts continues to be a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Whether motivated by our democratic values or our religious faith or both, we recognize that our fates are connected, we are one community, and we all do better when we all do better. We reject efforts to divide our communities and scapegoat the most vulnerable among us.

We work to pass laws, through the Legislature or at the ballot box, that support working families with jobs that pay a living wage and policies that allow them to balance work and family. To support important investments in our people and communities, we believe everyone should be asked to pay their fair share.

## Our Story

Throughout 2013 and 2014, more than 150 organizations and hundreds of grassroots volunteers formed Raise Up Massachusetts and collected more than 350,000 signatures to put minimum wage and earned sick time on the ballot.

In June 2014, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed legislation raising the minimum wage from \$8 to \$11 over three years, avoiding the need for a ballot question. Raise Up Massachusetts then led the campaign to ensure access to earned sick time for all workers in the Commonwealth by passing Question 4 in November 2014.

In 2015 and 2016, Raise Up Massachusetts passed a paid family and medical leave bill in the state Senate, fought to win a \$15 wage for working people as part of the national Fight for \$15 movement, and collected more than 157,000 signatures and won the first of two votes by the full state Legislature needed to advance our Fair Share Amendment towards the 2018 ballot.

## Our Agenda

This year, Raise Up Massachusetts is focusing on winning three issues of critical importance to working families in Massachusetts:

**Paid Family and Medical Leave** will ensure that Massachusetts workers are not forced to choose between work and their own health needs or the well-being of their children and other family members.

**A \$15 Minimum Wage** will make sure that anyone who works at a job full-time earns a wage they can live on, so they can afford groceries, housing, heating and other basic needs and support their families.

**The Fair Share Amendment** will invest in quality public schools, affordable higher education, a transportation system that works, and high-quality early childhood education by creating an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars.

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