

Trump-Proof Seattle – Progressive Income Tax Campaign – Updated 3/20/17

The Threat

- Trump's proposed 2018 budget would cut funding for public housing and public transit, gut the Environmental Protection Agency, defund essential scientific research, and slash and burn many vital programs that provide assistance to poor people.
- Meantime, Congress is busy trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which would amount to a huge tax break for the wealthy as well as leaving millions without affordable healthcare.

The Problem

- Washington State is especially ill-prepared to cope with funding losses and program cuts.
- Already the legislature has been held in contempt by the Washington State Supreme Court for failure to uphold the state's paramount duty, that of adequately funding the education of all children.
- Washington State has the #1 most regressive tax system in the country, largely because we have no tax on income and therefore depend heavily on sales, property, and excise taxes that hit working and poor people the hardest.

The Opportunity

- Seattle can be a pioneer in challenging our state's unfair tax system, tapping the excessive private income in our city to generate new progressive revenue that will help us withstand federal budget cuts and make Seattle a city where everyone can thrive – as well as opening this same possibility for other cities and statewide.

The Strategy

- Pass a progressive tax based on income in Seattle, through action by the City Council.
- We expect this measure to be legally challenged, because it pushes the boundaries of two grey areas in Washington State law: the constitutionality of a progressive income tax, and the scope of cities' taxing authority. We want the case to end up at the State Supreme Court, so they have a chance to rule in our favor, and open up new progressive revenue options for our city and state! We estimate this process could take one to several years.
- The funding mechanism most strongly under consideration now is a 1.5% tax on income in excess of \$250K. In Seattle this would generate over \$130M per year.

The Moment

- Now is a time for bold action. Seattle can lead the way!

More information at TrumpProofSeattle.org