

Facts for Mythbusting:

1. Illinois has a strong economy

- a. Illinois has the 5th largest economy in the country.
- b. Illinois has the 6th most millionaires in the country
- c. Illinois has the highest rate of unemployment in the country - 6.6% - The unemployment rate for African Americans is 14.1%
- d. Illinois is one of 10 states with the highest increase in income inequality in the U.S. in the last 30 years.

2. Illinois spends enough money on social services like education, healthcare and human services.

- a. Illinois ranks 47th in spending on public services compared to other states.
- b. Since 2002, the state of Illinois has cut more than 25% from its public services budget (education, healthcare, human services).
- c. Illinois has the fewest state employees per capita of any of the 50 states
- d. Illinois spends less on Medicaid per patient than most other states. 8 states spend \$4,000 - \$5,300 (Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Utah, and Nevada) while other states like New York and Minnesota spend \$7,500 - \$10,500.
- e. Illinois spends the least amount on K-12 education, picking up 26% of school funding while the average among the other states is 46%

3. Taxes in Illinois are too high

- Illinois has the 5th most unfair tax system in the country. The only states with more unfair systems are Washington, Florida, Texas, and South Dakota
- The poorest 20%(families making less than 24,000) pay 13.2% of their income in taxes, the third highest amount in the country. In comparison, the the top 1% (families that make more than \$500,000) pay 4.6%.
- This is because Illinois has a flat income tax and relies on high property and sales taxes.
- In comparison, in Minnesota, which has the 5th most fair tax system - poorest 20% pay 8.8% and the top 1% pays 7.5% in taxes. Minnesota relies on a progressive income tax where the rich pay more.

Closing

The real question is who are they too high for? If we want to fully fund social services in Illinois, we need to raise more revenue without increasing taxes on working families. The People's Agenda lays out a vision for how to make this possible.