



May 1, 2019

## **A Fair Income Tax Plan for Illinois**

Today I will continue our series on Illinois' state budget. Helping our local communities succeed begins with putting Illinois back on sound financial footing. For too long, Illinois has muddled from emergency to emergency, finally culminating in former Governor Bruce Rauner's years-long budget crisis, which brought Illinois to the brink of junk bond status.

I'm fighting for a new path forward. A Fair Income Tax plan finally means stable funding for our schools, pensions, and critical services that keep communities strong. A Fair Tax is critical to paying Rauner's backlog of unpaid bills and stabilizing Illinois' bond rating, which will ultimately mean lower borrowing costs for units of local government across Illinois.

Most critically, this can be accomplished while easing the burden on middle-class and struggling families, as well as small and medium-sized businesses. The vast majority of us will be in line for lower taxes – all while our schools are properly funded and our state's financial stability is restored.

We simply cannot go back to the crises and damaging cuts endured during the Rauner years, but without a Fair Tax, we will continue to face the prospect of deep, across-the-board cuts to schools, to life-saving health care for seniors, veterans and our most vulnerable residents, and to many other needed programs. Instead of further damaging critically needed services, we can choose a more positive path forward with a Fair Tax.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford  
State Representative-Eighth District