



About the Raise Up Constitutional Amendment

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 higher education, and a transportation system that lets people get to work and customers get to businesses.

Without investment in these common goals, working families fall behind and our communities suffer. New revenue is necessary to improve our public schools, rebuild crumbling roads and bridges, make college affordable, and invest in fast and reliable public transportation.



What Our Constitutional Amendment Would Do

Our proposed constitutional amendment would create an additional tax of four percentage points only on annual income above \$1 million. The new revenue generated by this tax could only be spent on quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation.

To ensure that the tax continues to apply only to the highest-income residents, the \$1 million threshold would be adjusted each year to reflect cost-of-living increases.

What This Means for Massachusetts

Quality Public Schools: Kids need a well-rounded education that includes enrichment programs such as music, art and athletics – but many of these programs were eliminated during the recession years. We need to re-invest in these programs now to give all of our kids access to a complete education.

Affordable Public College: Compared to other states, Massachusetts ranks 45th in state spending on higher education as a share of our economy.¹ Since 2008, only six other states cut higher education spending at a higher rate than Massachusetts.² Now, 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 re-invest in public higher education, to make it affordable for middle- and working-class students in our state.

Improved Transportation Infrastructure: 446 bridges in Massachusetts are “structurally deficient,” meaning they have “major deterioration, cracks, or other flaws that reduce [the] ability to support vehicles,” and an estimated \$14.4 billion of bridge repairs are needed.³ We have a large backlog of neglected bridges, tunnels and unsafe roads in need of repair. 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.

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.

1. State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, “State Higher Education Finance: FY 2014” 2. Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, “Higher Learning, Lower Funding: The Decline in Support for Higher Education in Massachusetts” 3. Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, “A Preview of the FY 2016 Budget”

To get involved in our grassroots movement, go to RaiseUpMA.org