



## KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

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*Action for Justice*

# Support Fair and Adequate Taxes for a Budget that Works for Kentuckians!

## Does our budget work? Here's what we did last year...

- \$1 million in cuts to the already underfunded Legal Aid, which provides emergency legal help to people who can't afford a lawyer. The cuts to Legal Aid are in addition to cuts to the already underfunded Department of Public Advocacy, which houses public defenders. These cuts compromise Kentucky's ability to fulfill everyone's right to a fair trial, and *leaves 54 needed positions unfilled*.
- \$40 million in cuts to human services. This has already led to the closing of a Seven County Services' mental health facility in Louisville and to state employee layoffs. These cuts severely impact our ability to care for the ill, elderly, and poor.
- Cuts to higher education that created more barriers to college affordability and a loss of jobs. Many students saw 9% tuition hikes, and KCTCS, the community and technical college system, *cut 240 jobs* among the system's 16 colleges and 67 campuses.
- Flat-lined funding for K-12 education, which was already underfunded. Schools have the same amount of money to pay for the rising costs of bus fuel, heat, food, and other operating expenses. As class sizes swell up to 28 students per class, *975 jobs have been lost* across the state because of layoffs to teachers, aides, and staff.
- 22% cuts to the Natural Resources Department, impacting the monitoring of air and water quality and compromising our safety.

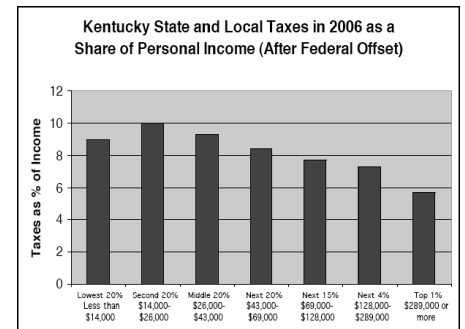
**“With this budget, the legislature is saying, ‘We can’t get ourselves together enough to say that education, the quality of life, and health care are priorities.’”**

**– Steve Boyce,  
Madison County**

## ... and Kentucky *still* asks the most from those who have the least!

**Kentucky's budget is not just, and these cuts aren't fair. Kentucky can do better. Support a tax plan that creates revenue fairly. We can:**

- Restore our state estate tax to regain about \$50 million a year
- Make our income tax more progressive to earn about \$350 million a year.
- Expand the sales tax to select services to earn about \$100 million.
- *And*, create a state Earned Income Tax Credit to send \$89 million back to working families.



**These changes would net about \$400 million a year in new revenue, and would help working families make ends meet.**