
A Constitutional Amendment to Allow for a Graduated Rate Income Tax for Illinois

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Summer, 2013
We refined our role when working with “A Better Illinois”, which sought to have a graduated rate income tax on the ballot in the November 2014 General Election. Hillary Denk, Janet Kittlaus, Jan Kay, and Deb Rugg served on their Legislative Committee, which identified potential allies in the General Assembly.

Two workshops and a caucus were presented at the 2013 convention, with good attendance and good participation. We began updating the website materials.

Fall, 2013
The LWVIL Board recommended that we use the term “Graduated rate income tax” in lieu of “Fair Tax”.

Presentations were made in Adams County, Bloomington, Champaign County, Deerfield, Elgin, Oak Park, Palos/Orland Park, Park Forest, Park Ridge, Rockford, Roselle/Bloomingdale and Wheaton.

Web materials were updated.

The League issued a Call to Action, asking Local Leagues to visit legislators and send a letter to the editor and/or an editorial, make phone calls, send emails, and postcards.

Local Leagues participated in legislator town halls and were asked to reach out to “grass top” leaders.

SJRCA40 was proposed in the Senate, and HJRCA33 in the House.

Spring, 2014:
Workshop at the Issues Briefing.

Local Leagues in Jo Daviess County and Freeport collaborated with Ralph Martire to hold public forums to which they invited elected officials and community leaders. In addition, they held two in-depth editorial board meetings.

League members made several trips to Springfield to advocate for the bills.

Despite sufficient votes in the Senate, SJRCA 40, which called for putting a constitutional amendment proposal to allow a graduated income tax on the November, 2014 ballot, was withdrawn by its chief sponsor. Because the numbers in the House were still in flux and because Speaker Madigan was backing an amendment proposal for a millionaires’ tax instead of the graduated income tax, Sen. Don Harmon decided not to chance the bill’s defeat in the House so that he could reintroduce the bill at a more favorable time.

No League work has been done on it since as there is nothing to respond to and our work has been focused on the Responsible Budget Coalition and minimizing the damage the FY 16 budget will do.