



Statement of Principles to Evaluate Proposals to Modify Connecticut's Fiscal Roadblocks

Connecticut is one of the wealthiest states in the nation, but it also has one of the highest levels of income inequality. The fiscal roadblocks are barriers to building progress and creating equity for Connecticut's working and middle-class families, Black, brown, and white. We must rewrite the rules, for now and for years to come, so that artificial "guardrails" do not prevent us from reimagining Connecticut's unfair and unbalanced tax structure as a tool to eradicate racial, gender, and economic inequities. For decades, we have withheld vital support from our communities and public institutions, preventing us from providing the care, support and services that Connecticut residents need. Now, only bold, transformational investment can restore the structures and services essential to working people's quality of life. This is particularly important in that we cannot count on Washington in the near future to be an agent of positive change for working families. Any modifications should:

1. **Prioritize Equity to Address Generational Poverty and Racism:** Invest in areas that have been systemically neglected to make positive transformational short and long term interventions to combat inequity. Update our revenue policies with an emphasis on providing support and relief to the lowest income earners who pay the highest percentage of their income in taxes by asking higher earners to pay their fair share.
2. **Invest in Working People to Activate our Economy:** Center and prioritize the experiences, voices, and well-being of white, Black and brown working class families to responsibly, effectively and humanely continue building our economy.
3. **Reject Corporatization of Government:** Fund the public services our communities rely upon, such as healthcare and public education, to ensure they are not only appropriately staffed and fully resourced but expanded to meet the great need in our state. Privatization, consolidation and outsourcing are not responsive solutions that recognize and center the needs of our residents and their communities.
4. **Restore Democracy and Transparency:** Include public hearings, allowing for input from those who would be most impacted by their changes, and require the General Assembly's committees of cognizance to vote on proposals. Make the process accountable to voters and their elected representatives rather than Wall Street investors.