In-District Townhall Kit

Find your local townhall!

In-district townhalls are one of the best opportunities you have to meet your local lawmakers and ask them about our upside-down, unfair tax code and closing the capital gains loophole in Washington.

You can head to this page on our website to find a list of all the townhalls currently scheduled: balanceourtaxcode.com/townhalls.

If you don't see your legislators listed, you can visit app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder, enter your address, and find contact information for your representatives to ask their office about their in-district townhall.

Once you find your local townhall, take a look at the sample questions and talking points to help you plan a question to ask your lawmaker, and please make sure to Tweet and post from your townhall and tag Balance Our Tax Code on Facebook and Twitter!

Sample Questions

Here are some sample questions you can ask your legislators. Make sure to post on Facebook and tweet about your experience and their answers!

- Washington has the most upside-down tax code in the nation, where our lowest-income families pay six times more of their income in taxes than the wealthiest households. What are you doing to fix our broken and unfair tax code? Do you support closing the loophole on capital gains?

- It seems like every year we're struggling to find the resources we need to invest in priorities like early learning, education, and mental health care. Not only is our tax code unfair, but it directly impacts our ability to fund priorities like these. So how would you use closing the capital gains loophole in Washington to invest in thriving communities in Washington?

- Washington is one of only nine states that doesn't have a capital gains tax. Given that we are also consistently ranked the most unfair, upside-down tax code in the nation, why wouldn't we close the capital gains loophole?

- The proposals to close the capital gains loophole that I've seen all exclude retirement accounts and the sales of homes – which are often the primary assets of middle-class families. So who does that leave? It seems to me that this would only impact a very small group of wealthy people who make massive amounts of profits from the stock market.

- Do you personally know anyone who makes more than $50,000 every year just from selling stocks, not including anything in a retirement account? Why shouldn't they contribute to priorities like education and health care, when our state's lowest-income families pay six times more of their income in taxes than the richest households?

Other Talking Points

Here are some additional facts and talking points you can use to talk about our tax code and help lead into your question. Remember that our revenue and the priorities we invest in are not separate – our upside-down tax code directly impacts our ability to invest in the priorities that we know lead to thriving communities, like early learning, education, mental health care, and infrastructure.

- Washington has the most upside-down tax code in the nation, where our lowest-income families pay six times more of their income in taxes than the wealthiest households.

- For too long, powerful special interests have rigged and manipulated our tax code to carve out exemptions and insert loopholes that benefit themselves while working families pay more and more.

- Washington can lead the nation when we invest in priorities like education and health care.

- But not only is our tax code the most unfair in the nation, it also prevents us from being able to make investments in needed priorities like education and mental health care that we know lead to thriving communities.

- In addition to having the most unfair tax code in the nation, Washington is also one of only nine states that don't have a capital gains tax on profits from the sales of stocks, bonds, and other assets.

- According to research from the Washington Budget and Policy Center, the majority of capital gains profits in Washington are claimed by people with an income of $1,000,000 or more a year.

- A capital gains tax in Washington would impact less than one percent of Washington taxpayers like me.

- This isn't about increasing taxes, it's about fixing our upside-down tax code and ensuring we have the resources we need to invest in our shared priorities without doubling-down on a broken, unfair system.

- By creating a capital gains tax that exempts retirement accounts and the sale of homes, we can both being to balance Washington's upside-down tax code and have more resources to invest in the foundations of thriving communities.

Take Action!

In addition to attending your local townhall, please consider some of these other things you can to do help raise awareness and encourage legislators to #balanceourtaxcode this year.

Social Media

You can find us on Twitter at @balancetaxcode and on Facebook at facebook.com/BalanceTaxCode. Please like and follow our pages, and post from your local townhall!

Here are some sample tweets you can use:
- I'm at my local townhall to ask my legislators if they support closing the capital gains loophole to #balanceourtaxcode. Washington has the most upside-down tax code in the nation. #waleg
- Washington has the most unfair and upside-down tax code in the nation, where our lowest-income families pay six times more of their income than the richest households. #waleg should #balanceourtaxcode & invest in our priorities by closing the capital gains loophole this session.

Sign our Petition

Have you added your name to our petition asking legislators to fix our upside-down tax code this session? If not, add your name at balanceourtaxcode.com!

Write a Letter-to-the-Editor

One of the best things you can do to help support fixing our broken tax code is writing a letter-to-the-editor and submitting it to your local newspaper. You can write your letter using the talking points in this kit, or you can email our Communications Director Jack Sorensen at jack@balanceourtaxcode.com for more help in submitting an LTE.