

# REVENUE IS NEEDED TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND COMMUNITIES!

**Our Commonwealth must continue to be a great place to live, work and raise a family. We need excellent schools and colleges, affordable health care for all and a strong economy that provides good jobs.**

- \* **TODAY'S REALITY:** With our state facing a deficit of nearly \$2 billion and the loss of federal stimulus funds, there will be budget shortfalls this year and in the future. Our schools, colleges and universities – along with public safety and health care services – face significant cuts.
- \* **OUR SOLUTION:** The Campaign For Our Communities, a coalition that includes the MTA and many other organizations, supports **An Act to Invest in Our Communities** (HB 2553/SB 1416). The legislation would raise \$1.37 billion in the first full year it is implemented from those most able to pay while having a limited impact on middle- and lower-income families. We need these funds to restore important programs and live up to our commitment to our students. Our kids deserve a well-rounded education that includes music, art, athletics and extracurricular programs.

## WHAT THE BILL DOES:

- \* Raises the state income tax rate from 5.3 percent to 5.95 percent while substantially increasing the personal exemption to ease the burden on the middle class.
- \* Raises the state tax rate on interest, dividends and long-term capital gains from 5.3 percent to 8.95 percent while protecting middle-class seniors and disabled people. Low- and moderate-income families typically will either be unaffected or will pay less under this plan. Middle-income families will see little change overall, with some paying more and some paying less than under the current system. Those with the highest incomes will pay the most. The steepest increases will affect the top 1 percent of families – those making more than \$500,000 a year.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- \* Educate yourself and other MTA members – all the information you need will be posted at [www.massteacher.org/revenue](http://www.massteacher.org/revenue) and [www.ourcommunities.org](http://www.ourcommunities.org).
- \* Contact your local president and start building support for adequate revenues by holding informational meetings.
- \* Have your town meeting, city council or school committee publicly endorse **An Act to Invest in Our Communities**.
- \* Organize a local event with other groups in your community.
- \* Help expand the Campaign for Our Communities in your area.

**GET INVOLVED! YOUR VOICE MAY BE THE ONE THAT BRINGS AWARENESS TO OUR MEMBERS, OUR LEGISLATORS AND OUR NEIGHBORS.**

