

Call to Action

The **RESPONSIBLE BUDGET COALITION** is committed to building the support needed to solve Illinois' budget crisis by raising adequate revenue to prevent harmful cuts to essential services and jobs in the public and private sectors.

- We believe Illinois has a moral and legal obligation to protect public safety and health, strengthen our economy, and ensure that every individual has the opportunity to thrive. But by forcing deep and damaging cuts to education, health care, human services and public safety, the current Illinois budget fails to meet those core obligations and undermines our state's chances for economic recovery
- In addition, the state's failure to pay its bills in a timely manner has driven its bond rating lower while forcing creditors—including school districts and universities, medical and human services providers, public employees, small businesses and other vendors—to effectively lend the state government billions of dollars.
- Painful cuts have already been made, substantially reducing general state spending. Despite these cuts and a series of one-time revenue measures, the state continues to run a dramatic and unsustainable deficit.
- We call on every Illinois elected official and candidate to acknowledge that this fiscal crisis—brought on by the state's long-standing structural budget deficit and a national economic downturn—demands a balanced approach that includes significant new revenue.
- To protect vital services and jobs and enable economic recovery, at least 32 other states already have raised new revenues in the past year. Illinois must do the same. For the well being of our communities, for economic stability and for our children's futures, we urge Illinois leaders to demonstrate responsible leadership and raise adequate revenue as soon as possible.

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