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Progress during the Trump Era: paid family leave and an income tax!

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Today Seattle City Council passed by a 9 to 0 vote a progressive income tax. It has been eight months since Trump was elected President. In those months, the resistance has focused on trying to prevent Trump's rollback of democracy at the federal level. At the same time, local activists and organizers have been moving forward progressive policy at the local and state level. We at the [Economic Opportunity Institute](#) believe that the best defense is a vital offense!

Last week Governor Inslee signed into law the nation's best law for paid family and medical leave. [And today the Seattle City Council voted into law an income tax of 2.25% on income over \\$250,000 for individuals, or \\$500,000 for married couples filing jointly. The tax will raise about \\$140 million a year.](#)

It took just a few months, with some incredible organizing and strategic planning, innovative legal research, and careful policy making. Our partners in this effort are the Transit Riders Union, 350.Org, Nicklesville, the Seattle Education Association, the Martin Luther King Jr. Central Labor Council, Real Change, PTE Local 17, the Neighborhood Action Coalitions, Socialist Alternative, and many other organizations and individuals. Together we created the Trump Proof Seattle, and proposed, developed, and negotiated a tax on the affluent.

The Seattle City Council has come through, with special mention for the efforts of Councilmembers Lisa Herbold, Kshama Sawant, and Tim Burgess. With its vote this afternoon, the council created a new progressive funding mechanism to help finance housing for the homeless, pre-kindergarten, community college tuition, green jobs, and transit, and to enable our city to reduce current regressive taxes, including property, B&O and sales taxes.

With this income tax, Seattle is again leading the way forward with progressive and equitable public policy for all of our citizens.

But the fight isn't over yet. [The Republican Party is encouraging people to break the law, to "forcefully resist" the income tax.](#) As the Chair of the State Republican Party stated: "[We are encouraging all the citizens of the city to exercise civil disobedience, to not comply, to not file, and to not pay.](#)"

The right-wing Koch Brothers-funded Freedom Foundation has already threatened a law suit. We here at the Economic Opportunity Institute say, "Bring it on." We are ready to go to the State Supreme Court to prove the legality and indeed, the imperative, of this progressive tax.

Let's go forward for our democracy! Join us!

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