

Taxing the Super Rich

While 8 million Americans slipped into poverty and half a million lives were lost to COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, [the wealth of U.S. billionaires doubled](#). Yet despite their extreme wealth, we ask them to pay fewer taxes than working Americans. This is because we tax work at a higher rate than we do wealth. While families in the bottom 99% owed 7.2% of their wealth in federal, state, and local taxes in 2019, the [top 0.1% owed just 3.2%](#). That's why lawmakers have introduced the idea of a wealth tax – a small tax on the wealth of the top 1%.

Why tax the ultra-wealthy?

1. **Force the rich to pay their fair share.** The concentration of wealth in the U.S. is continuing to move into the hands of the top 1% unchecked. During the COVID-19 pandemic alone, the U.S. gained [96 more billionaires](#), and the wealth of U.S. billionaires almost doubled. A wealth tax would fight this growing inequality by forcing these ultra-rich players to finally pay their fair share of taxes.
2. **It would raise significant revenue.** According to a [2021 analysis](#), this tax on less than 1 out of 1000 families would raise around \$3 trillion in revenue over 10 years. This money could be used to invest in public goods like free college, green jobs, health care, and public transportation that benefit all of us, and help create a more just economy.
3. **Help close the racial wealth gap.** Currently, the [400 richest Americans](#) own more wealth than all Black households and a quarter of Latino households combined. And of the 170 billionaires on Wall Street, [only one is Black](#). It's time to tax the absurd wealth of these predominantly white ultra-wealthy billionaires.
4. **The idea of a wealth tax enjoys broad support.** [In a survey](#) by Data for Progress of voters in 11 key battleground states, 62% said that they would rather enact a wealth tax than keep the current tax system as is. Further, 48% of Republican voters in these states said that they would be more likely to vote for a candidate that supports a wealth tax.

Bills

The Ultra-Millionaire Tax Act of 2021 ([H.R.1459](#) / [S.510](#)) would tax households with a net worth of \$50 million or more—the wealthiest 100,000 households. The net worth of households and trusts between \$50 million and \$1 billion would be taxed at a rate of 2%. Households and trusts over \$1 billion would pay an additional 1%, or a 3% tax overall. This plan would raise over \$3 trillion in revenue over 10 years.

For more information
or to request a meeting
with the coalition,
email Mandla Deskins at
Mandla@ourfinancialsecurity.org

