Virginia’s two-year budget and updates to that budget are among the most important decisions made each year during the legislative session. The state budget reflects what and who we value as a commonwealth because funding decisions impact the lives of everyone in Virginia through K-12 education, higher education, health care, safety net programs, and more.

People are the economy, and our economy will only do well when people have the resources they need to thrive. That's why it's important for lawmakers to focus on what matters most for families and communities: targeted help for families struggling with increasing costs, investing in our schools, expanding health care access, and making sure profitable corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share.
Instead of forfeiting our shared resources through billions in tax cuts that favor the wealthy and profitable corporations, lawmakers could fully and fairly fund critical services that have long been underfunded, including:

- Increasing **teacher pay** to the national average: $329 million
- Piloting a long-term **affordable housing** voucher program for 4,500 households: $73 million
- Creating a **health coverage option available to all children** from families with low income: $19.3 million in first two years
- Creating a **Commonwealth Kids Credit** that would help over 1 million children: $564 million

When we invest together in the foundations that benefit all of us, our communities thrive. Virginia's tax code can be a critical tool to:

- Direct support to families who need it most
- Make sure the wealthy and profitable corporations pay their fair share
- Protect our resources to invest in critical services and programs

Recently, lawmakers have made tax policy choices that have both helped and hurt our progress toward a more fair tax code, and each legislative session is another opportunity to advance tax choices that work for all of us.