



Missouri Association for Social Welfare

The Economic Justice Task Force of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare declares the following shall serve as guiding principles for the work of the task force:

- ♦ All people have a basic human right to the necessities of life (e.g., food, clothing, shelter, education, health care, safe environment, economic security, basic public utilities and services).
- ♦ Government has a moral obligation to work to increase the equality of economic opportunity, decrease the growing wealth and income gaps in our society, and to enact policies that secure the basic needs of its most vulnerable peoples.
- ♦ Government has the responsibility to collect revenue sufficient to meet its obligations, provide for the common good, and maintain a safety net that secures the basic necessities of life for every person.
- ♦ Revenue should be collected equitably through a progressive system of taxation that is, a system based upon ability to pay.
- ♦ The use of taxes as an incentive or disincentive, or the granting of tax preferences, should be based on the common good, not on special interest.
- ♦ All financial lending institutions should adhere to the highest standards of lending practices, which demonstrate due diligence, a superior level of fiduciary responsibility, maintenance of the public trust, and at all times protect the common good and general welfare.
- ♦ A living wage is necessary for all people, and must be adequately and regularly adjusted to meet basic human needs.

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