



Awake the State – Talking Points

- Gov. Rick Scott and legislative leaders have launched an all-out assault on Florida workers and their families.
- Average Floridians are fed up with Tallahassee politicians balancing the budget on the backs of hard-working Floridians. Working families simply cannot afford more budget cuts.
- This is a budget written by a billionaire CEO FOR billionaire CEO's. The tax burden is being placed squarely on the shoulders of middle class Floridians.
- Cutting jobs, salaries, and benefits for teachers, firefighters, police, and other public employees is reckless and will make Florida less attractive to businesses and individual workers.
- Florida taxpayers firmly oppose giveaways to wealthy corporations at the expense of education, health care, our environment, transportation and other state services.
- Corporate tax cuts would come directly at the expense of public schools, taxpayers, those in need of health care, and services for children, families and veterans.
- Tallahassee politicians are attempting to impose the largest education cut in Florida history. We can't allow thousands of education jobs to be lost, teachers' already low wages to be slashed, and our students to suffer.
- Imposing a tax on teachers, firefighters, police officers, nurses and other public employees who have already agreed to cuts over the past six years to balance state and local budgets is just plain wrong. Enough is enough!
- It is unfair for Tallahassee politicians to target teachers, nurses, police officers and firefighters for a tax increase to fix the budget mess they created.

- While politicians are paying lip service to improving the job climate in Florida, they are cutting thousands of jobs and making it tougher for our state to recruit quality teachers, first responders, and other vital service workers.
- This Governor and Legislature's budget will line the pockets of Wall Street fat cats with money taken from the pockets of people on Main Street.
- Florida's tax structure is already regressive, making working families pay much more in taxes than the rich and corporations.
- Let's be clear: this budget gives tax exemptions for millionaires' yachts and luxury sky boxes while cutting more than \$3 billion from our schools.

Below for use if asked what alternatives we propose in order to balance the budget:

- Gov. Scott and the Florida Legislature must craft a responsible budget that closes down unnecessary and unproductive tax exemptions and loopholes, rather than cutting critical services like education, health care, public safety, and social programs.