



Corporations and the Super-Rich: PAY YOUR FAIR SHARE!

2012 Tax Season is upon us, and [USAction](#) is planning more than **32 events in 16 states** to tell *Corporations and the Super-Rich: PAY YOUR FAIR SHARE!*

We are sending a message to Congress, too: Take Action Now and pass legislation to make super profitable corporations and the super wealthy pay their fair share. Events will take place from early April through April 17 in Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia. The message is simple:

It's time for everyone to pay their fair share! If the 1% paid their share we would have the money for job creation and the resources we need to fix the economic mess that the financial speculators and unaccountable corporations got us into.

Pass the Buffett Rule!

As the Senate prepares to vote on Rhode Island Senator Sheldon Whitehouse's [Buffett Rule legislation](#), USAction affiliates and members are rallying across the country to show their support for the legislation. The bill, the Paying a Fair Share Act, would ensure that multi-million-dollar earners pay at least a 30 percent effective federal tax rate. Senator Whitehouse introduced the Paying a Fair Share Act in the Senate on February 1, 2012. The bill currently has 13 cosponsors, including Senator Jack Reed. The Senate will vote on the legislation on Monday, April 16.

In at least six states, including Missouri, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island and Virginia, USAction affiliates will deliver to members of Congress tens of thousands of petitions collected from USAction's online members in support of passing the bill. We are educating the public about the problem the Buffett Rule addresses: secretaries and other clerical workers are paying an effective tax rate that's higher than that of millionaires and billionaires.

One of these petition delivery events took place last Wednesday, where [Oregon Action](#) and their partners turned out 100 people to a town hall forum in Medford hosted by Senator Jeff Merkley. Organizers delivered 1,700 signatures to the Senator and carried a simple demand: [Stand with the 99% and co-sponsor this bill!](#) The coalition held a second delivery event on Tuesday, April 10 at a town hall hosted by Senator Ron Wyden.

And in Rhode Island, USAction affiliate [Ocean State Action](#) will lead a rally alongside Senator Whitehouse on Friday morning at the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 328 Union Hall, a few days in advance of the Senate vote on his bill.

This week in New Hampshire, organizers with [New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Action](#) and their partners are rallying on Thursday at Senator Kelly Ayotte's Nashua office to urge her to support the bill. After the rally, organizers and volunteers will deliver the petition signatures to the senator in person.

In Missouri, leaders with USAction affiliate [Missouri ProVote](#) will deliver nearly 1,000 petition signatures to Senator Claire McCaskill to demonstrate support for tax fairness. ProVote has already generated phone calls and letters-to-the-editor to the senator via online action alerts, and is turning out members to this week's delivery event.



In West Virginia, [WV Citizen Action Group](#) and their partners in the West Virginians United coalition are sponsoring an event and news conference in downtown Charleston to raise their voices in support of the Paying a Fair Share Act. An op-ed written by WV Citizen Action Director Gary Zuckett was [published](#) in the Charleston Gazette on April 9.

[ProgressOhio](#) plans to bring a broad base of community activists and leaders together to deliver thousands of signatures to Senator Portman's office in Columbus on April 16.

Pay Your Fair Share!

Our affiliates are also leading and organizing actions that will highlight corporate tax dodgers in a very public way in cities around the country.

Next week in Medford, [Oregon Action](#) and their partners and members will march from the Medford Post Office to the Bank of America to deliver postcards that show the contrast between what ordinary taxpayers pay compared to tax dodgers like Exxon, Verizon, Bank of America and Wells Fargo, who pay ZERO in taxes. Sponsoring organizations include Oregon Action, the AFL-CIO, the Oregon School Employees Association, SEIU, Occupy Medford, Oregon Education Association and Jobs with Justice.

In Florida, USAction's Florida Consumer Action Network is partnering with SEIU, Occupy Tampa and MoveOn to turn out dozens of activists for a march and rally in downtown Tampa, targeting Bank of America for failing to pay their fair share. FCAN is also planning an event in St. Petersburg.

In Atlanta, GA, [Georgia Rural Urban Summit](#) and the Atlanta MoveOn Council will head to the downtown post office for a satirical, yet educational event to demonstrate how average citizens can be just like corporations and the 1%, and pay little or no income tax by incorporating and forming offshore tax shelters.

In Michigan, activists with [Michigan Citizen Action](#) will rally outside the Federal Post Office in Grand Rapids to push for corporations to pay their fair share.

[Penn Action](#) will join with MoveOn.org and the Working Families Party to gather at train station in Levittown for a rally and a march to the Wells Fargo Bank. The train station, a deferred project of the state government, is badly in need of restoration. Event participants will march with the message that if corporations like Wells Fargo would pay their fair share in taxes, much-needed funding for transportation and infrastructure repair would be available.

In Nashville, [Tennessee Citizen Action](#) and their partners will host a *tongue-in-cheek* bake sale to raise money to bridge the gap of the deficit. The event will feature two tables – one for regular citizens, who will be charged money for baked goods, and one for millionaires, who will get the goods for free or be paid to consume them.

In Virginia, organizers with [Virginia Organizing](#) are working to turn out members to events in locations across the state, including in Virginia Beach, Charlottesville, Danville, Richmond and Fredericksburg, including protests at corporations, rallies, trainings, petition deliveries and LTE drives in support of the fair tax campaign.

[Washington Community Action Network](#) and their partners are planning events across the state, including a rally in downtown Seattle with 500 people targeting Wells Fargo, a corporation well known for avoiding taxes. Leaders and participants will deliver mock foreclosure papers to the bank to call attention to their delinquent status as a corporate taxpayer.