Michigan Tax Reform Proposal

Overall Tax and Budget Plan

- $1.5 billion in spending cuts and structural reforms
- $400 million to finally start addressing unfunded OPEB liability
- A simple, fair, and efficient tax system with a net tax cut and significant business tax relief

Corporate Income Tax

Making Michigan Competitive

- Replaces MBT with a 6% corporate income tax
- No gross receipts tax
- No surcharge
- No complicated calculations
- No credits, deductions, or exemptions
- No winners at the expense of losers

Simple

- Take federal taxable income
  (with a couple of adjustments, if applicable)
- Multiply by 6%
- If you're a small business, multiply by 1.8% instead
- Insurance companies and financial institutions continue to pay their own tax as under the MBT

Fair

- Only applies to companies filing as C corps—pass-through entities like S corps, LLCs, partnerships and sole proprietors already pay tax on business income under the personal income tax
- Only applies to profits—if you didn't make money, you don't have to pay tax
- Consistent with tax treatment of personal income
- Eliminates the tax preferences that create winners and losers under the current system

Efficient

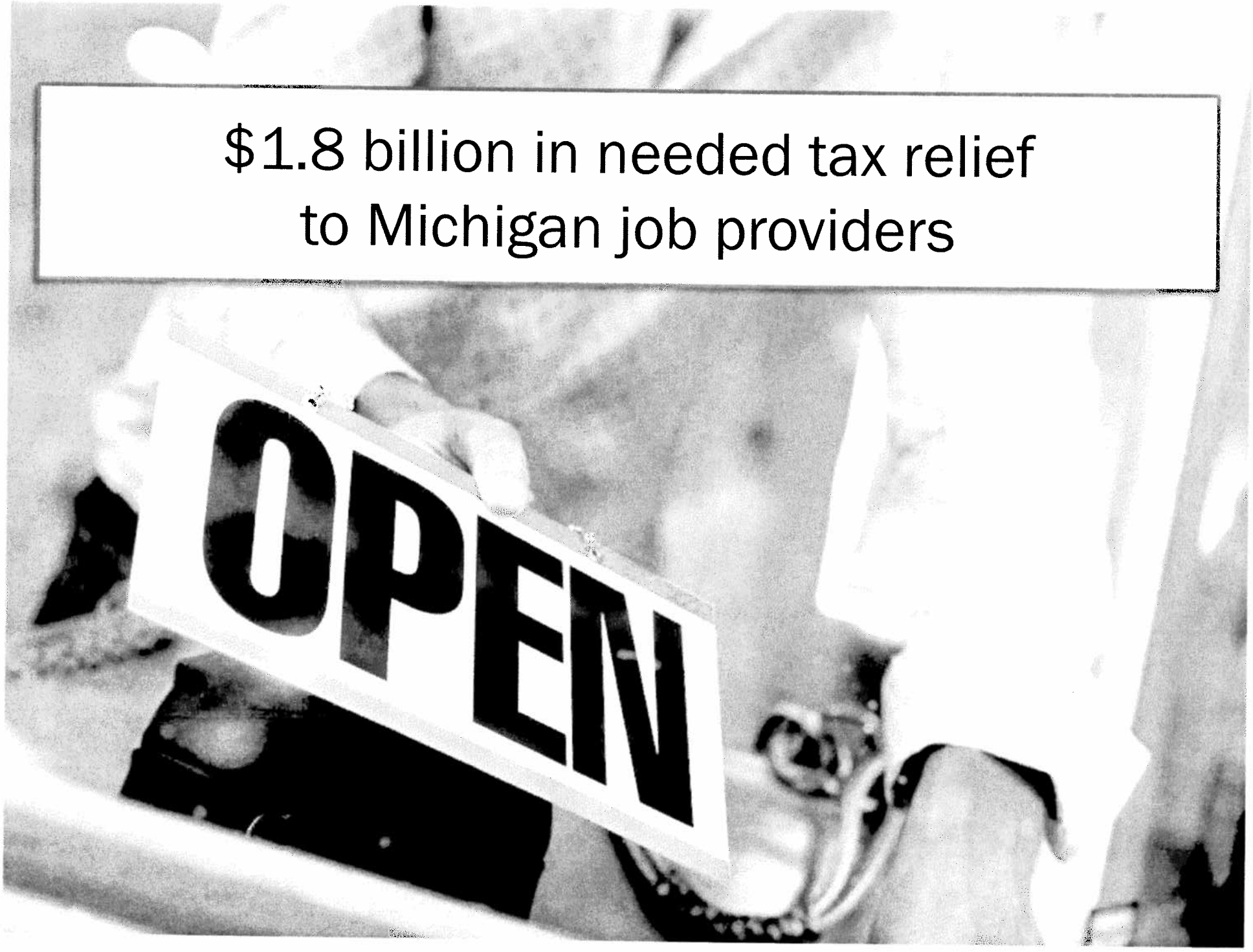
- A simple tax means the costs of compliance and administration are low
- The elimination of tax preferences means the state will no longer penalize businesses that don't have a voice in Lansing
- All businesses will have an equal opportunity to prosper and grow

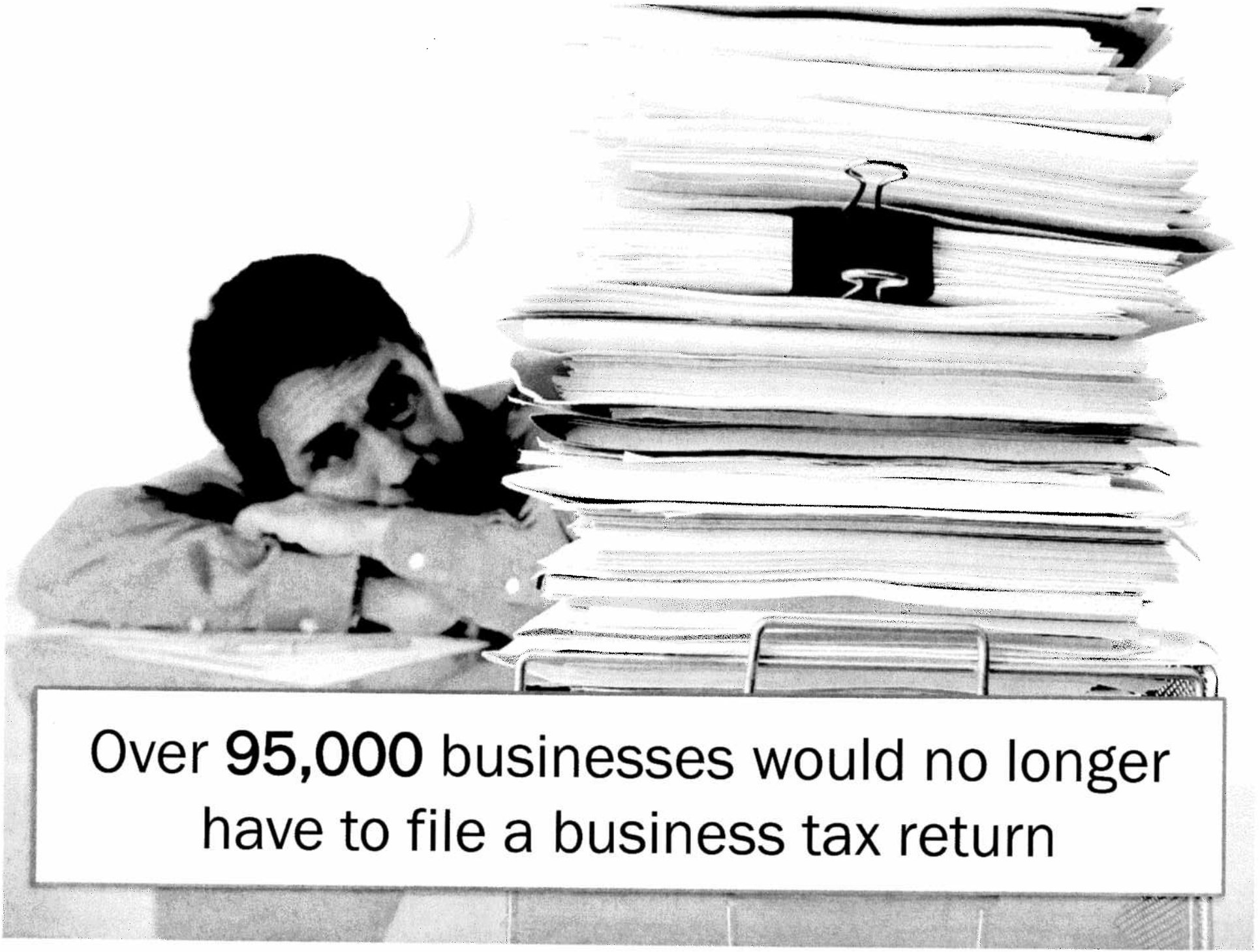
Promises Kept and Increased Transparency

- Previously-awarded incentives such as MEGA, Brownfield, Film, and advanced battery credits will be honored

- In the future, all economic development incentives will be subject to the annual appropriations process and the same level of scrutiny that all other spending decisions receive

$1.8 billion in needed tax relief
to Michigan job providers




Over **95,000** businesses would no longer
have to file a business tax return

Other Side of the Ledger

Eliminating preferences for some/preserving rate reduction for all

- The proposal generates $1.44 billion in revenue by eliminating most tax preferences under the individual income tax
- Existing preferences have unfairly distorted the tax burden under the personal income tax and created a system of winners and losers
- All taxpayers would see a reduction in the income tax rate from 4.35% to 4.25%. This reduction is currently scheduled to occur on 10/1/11
- Revenue from future scheduled rate reductions would be deposited into a fund to provide additional long-term tax and fee relief where most needed

Simple, Fair, & Efficient

- Would eliminate most tax preferences including the exemption for retirement income

- Certain base reductions and credits such as the personal exemption, 100% social security exemption, and homestead property tax credit would be retained in order to provide relief to lower income individuals

- The homestead property tax credit would be set at a single rate of 80% for qualifying taxpayers

- Specific additional relief for military personnel, veterans, and individuals with disabilities would be retained

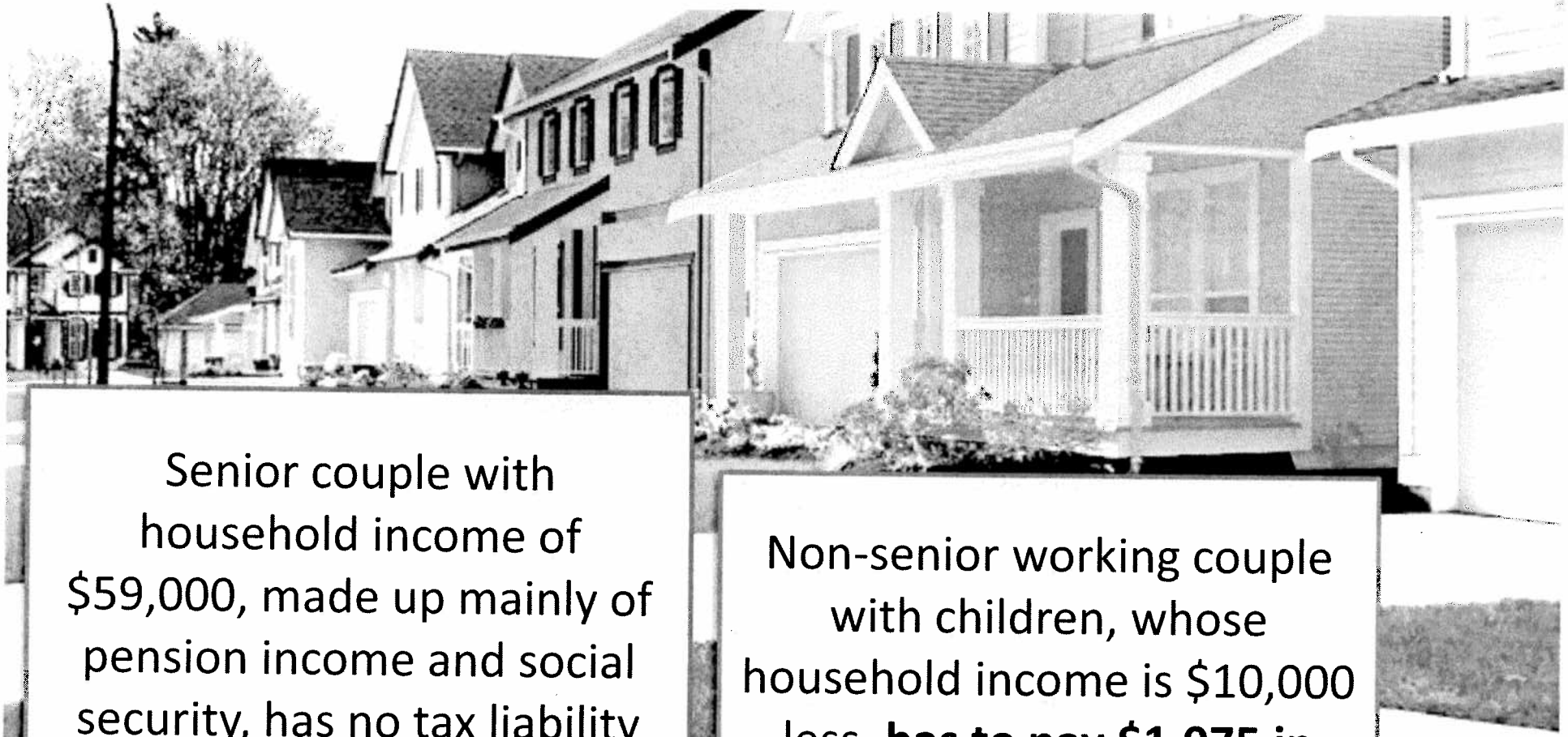
Revenue Stability

Overall revenues from the corporate income tax and the broader-based personal income tax would be at least as stable as those generated by the MBT and personal income tax currently

It's a matter of fairness

- Treats working and non-working seniors the same
- Treats working seniors and non-senior pensioners the same
- Treats pensioners and working families the same
- Treats 401k recipients and pensioners the same
- All recipients still receive a deferred tax benefit
- It's all income. $100 from a pension is no different than $100 from a job

The Inequity of Exempting Retirement Income – Example from Real Tax Returns



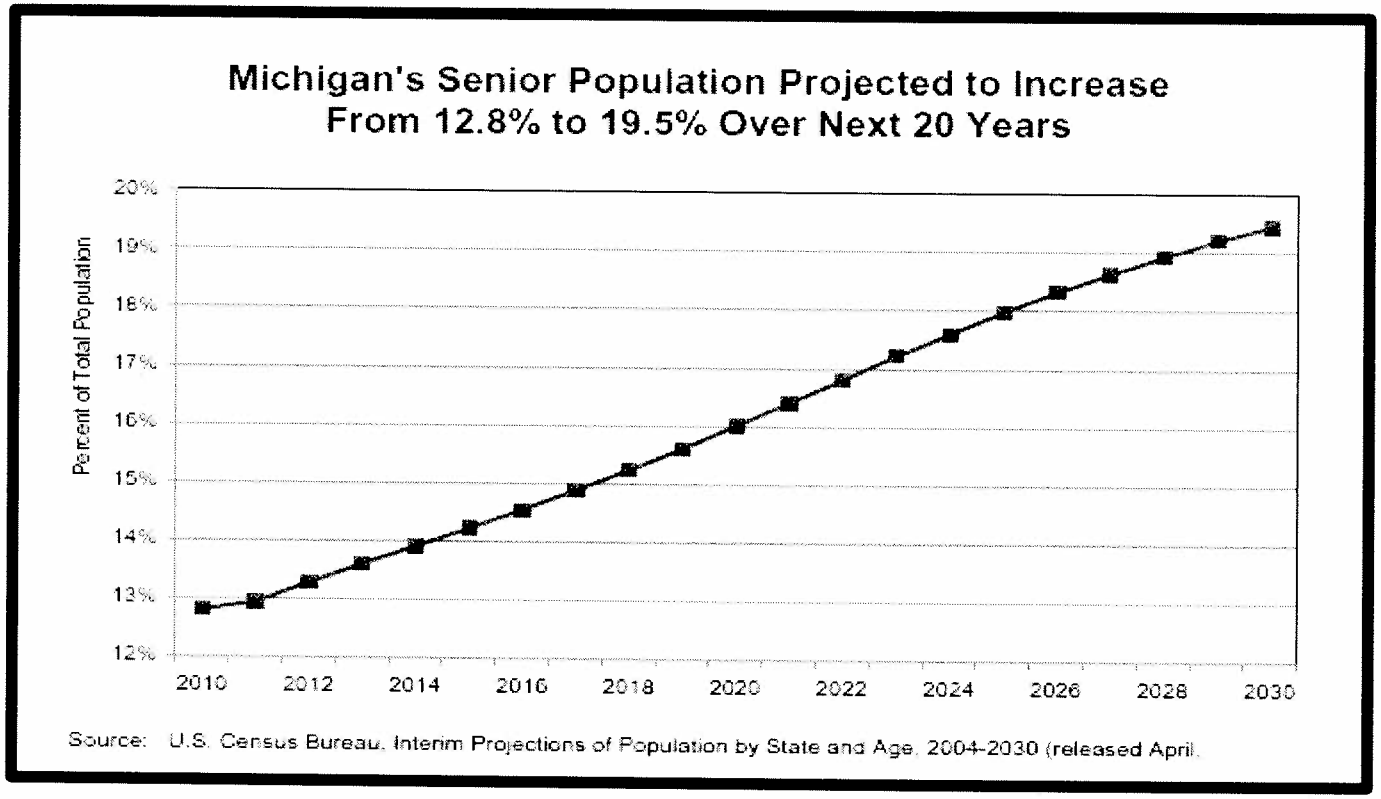
Senior couple with household income of $59,000, made up mainly of pension income and social security, has no tax liability and actually **receives a check of $400 from the state**

Non-senior working couple with children, whose household income is $10,000 less, **has to pay $1,075 in Michigan income tax**

The Inequity of Exempting Retirement Income - By the Numbers

- Michigan is one of only four states that impose an income tax that exempt most or all retirement income from state income tax
- In 2008, on average, seniors with under $50,000 in AGI had no income tax liability and received money back from the state
- In comparison, non-seniors making between $45,001 and $50,000 in AGI had an average income tax liability of $1,300
- In total, the net effective tax rate for all seniors based on AGI in 2008 was 0.48% compared to 2.95% for non-seniors
- To put that into perspective, a senior with AGI between $175,001 and $200,000 paid the same effective tax rate as a non-senior making between $35,001 and $40,000
- AGI does not include roughly $20 billion in federally exempt social security benefits that MI seniors receive

Michigan's Aging Population



Over the next 20 years, Michigan's senior population is expected to increase from 12.8% to 19.5%

The budget consequences of continuing to exempt retirement income

- Michigan's retirement income exemption creates a $900 million hole in our income tax collections
- As the state ages, this hole will grow significantly, placing added stress on the ability of our income tax system to meet budget demands
- Seniors currently account for 16.1% of Michigan resident AGI (which does not include federally exempt social security) but only pay 3% of the income tax paid by Michigan residents
- With fewer taxpayers supporting their equitable share of public services, programs will have to be reduced or eliminated, and/or taxes will have to be increased
- That could negatively impact both seniors, who are relatively high users of services, and younger taxpayers, who currently generate 97% of all income tax revenue paid by Michigan residents

It's not where you started; it's where you land

It's not where you started; it's where you land…

Michigan would continue to have a lower personal income tax burden than the majority of states

It's not where you started; it's where you land…

Even after these proposed changes, the average senior couple would have no tax liability until their income exceeded $41,000

Governor's Income Tax Proposal - Taxpayer Examples
Examples of Impact of Eliminating and Reducing Tax Credits, Deductions, and Exemptions
Tax Rate Lowered to 4.25% and Pension Deduction Eliminated
Personal Exemption Phased Out and EITC Repealed
Homestead Property Tax Credit at 80% for Seniors and General with Lower Income Limits
Based on 2010 Tax Law

	Retired Senior Couple	Working Nonsenior Couple	Retired Senior Single	Working Nonsenior Single
Income				
Pension	$17,500	$0	$19,240	$0
Social Security (1)	$24,000	$0	$14,160	$0
Earned Income (wages/salaries)	$0	$41,500	$0	$33,400
Other Income	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total income	$41,500	$41,500	$33,400	$33,400
Property taxes (2)	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Current Tax Law:				
Current personal and special exemptions	$11,600	$7,200	$5,900	$3,600
Current taxable income x 4.35%	$0	$1,462	$0	$1,298
Refundable credits				
Homestead property tax credit	$548	$329	$831	$499
EITC	$0	$0	$0	$0
Net income tax under current law	**-$548**	**$1,164**	**-$831**	**$798**
Effective Tax Rate	**-1.32%**	**2.80%**	**-2.49%**	**2.39%**
Proposed Tax:				
New personal exemption/deduction amount (3)	$7,200	$7,200	$3,600	$3,600
Tax = new taxable income x 4.25%	$438	$1,468	$685	$1,287
New refundable credits (4)	$438	$438	$685	$685
Net income tax under proposal	**$0**	**$1,020**	**$0**	**$602**
Effective Tax Rate	**0.00%**	**2.46%**	**0.00%**	**1.80%**
Net increase (decrease) from current law	**$547**	**($144)**	**$831**	**($196)**

Notes:

1. Social Security levels represent typical levels for a senior couple and senior single.
2. Estimated level of property taxes for a typical senior homeowner.
3. Subtractions are maintained except for reduction in pension deduction, senior investment income, and miscellaneous. Exemption amount for 2010 was $3,600, and the exemption for 2011 is $3,700.
4. Homestead credits reduced with phaseout between $61,000 and $70,000.

Prepared By Office of Revenue and Tax Analysis, Michigan Department of Treasury

It's not where you started; it's where you land…

Michigan's personal income tax rate would continue to be extremely competitive relative to its neighbors

Midwest States	Individual Income Tax
Illinois	5.00%
Indiana	3.40%
Michigan	**4.25%**
Minnesota	5.35% - 7.85%
Ohio	0.618% - 6.24%
Wisconsin	4.6% - 7.75%

It's not where you started; it's where you land…

According to the Council on State Taxation model, this proposal would move Michigan from 30th to 16th lowest state and local business tax burden

It's not where you started; it's where you land…

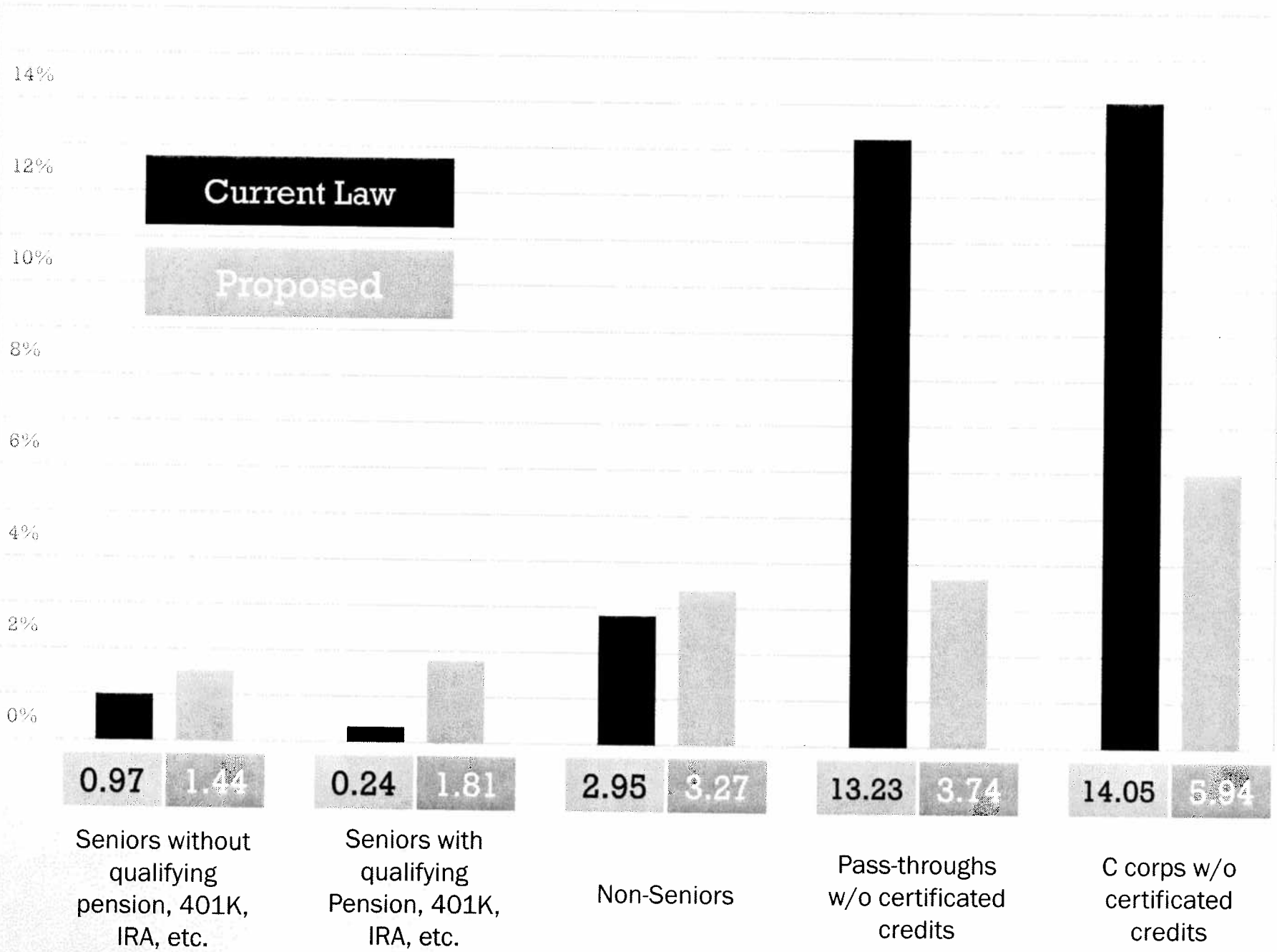
Michigan would have the lowest corporate income tax rate in the Midwest

Midwest States	Corporate Income Tax
Illinois	9.50%
Indiana	8.50%
Michigan	**6.00%**
Minnesota	9.80%
Ohio	CAT
Wisconsin	7.90%

Why we're doing this

- To create an environment for job growth
- To treat all individuals and businesses fairly
- To simplify our tax system and get back to basics (Filling out a tax return shouldn't require an advanced degree)
- To firmly anchor our tax laws to fixed core principles (Because consistency provides long-term value to all businesses and acts as a natural defense against those seeking special treatment for short-term gain)
- To put Michigan back on the map

Taxpayer Effective Rates


14%
12%
10%
8%
6%
4%
2%
0%
Current Law
Proposed
0.97
1.44
0.24
1.81
2.95
3.27
13.23
3.74
14.05
5.94
Seniors without qualifying pension, 401K, IRA, etc.
Seniors with qualifying Pension, 401K, IRA, etc.
Non-Seniors
Pass-throughs w/o certificated credits
C corps w/o certificated credits