



## Fair Tax Hope Grows With Anarchy

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While those around him are tearing their hair out in frustration over the budget mess, Rep. Fulton [SHEEN](#) (R-Plainwell) sees opportunity in the situation.

Recall that Sheen's top policy priority is to make Michigan the first state to adopt the FairTax, which is a consumption tax under which most other taxes are eliminated in favor of a relatively high sales tax. His plan is to put the issue on the statewide ballot in 2008.

*MIRS* conducted a brief interview with Sheen this week.

**Q. Could you ask for much more help from the Legislature promoting your FairTax than what it's been doing lately?**

A. Right now what they've been doing is really going to help me. In fact, when we get done with whatever it is we're doing, I may stand up and personally thank my colleagues for helping me promote my FairTax plan.

What we're seeing right now in Lansing is people focusing on the political chess game instead of just supporting the policies they believe in. If you think we should have a tax hike, you should vote yes. If you don't think so, you should vote no. If the Legislature can't make any big decisions we should let the people of Michigan do it. This type of situation is probably why they created ballot initiatives in the first place.

**Q. The major question people are now asking about the FairTax is whether you can get it on the ballot. In fact, a lot of people now see that as your biggest obstacle. Will you get it on the ballot?**

A. I'm telling you, this is doable. People realize how bad off we are. Everywhere I go people are interested in this. The sentiment out there is for real change, not just the same-old, same-old. They're not interested in just shifting who is or isn't going to pay the most gross receipts tax.

I can tell you that when we started this we went to (longtime Republican strategist) Richard [[McLELLAN](#)] to help us. The first step was to get the wording for the Resolution (HCR L). The 100-word wording for a ballot proposal is critical. We ran that by some focus groups and get it right. Then we take it to Dykema Gossett and they'll forward it to the Board of Canvassers. We're hoping to get started by late January or early February.

**Q. If there is a tax hike, would that even further play into your hands?**

A. I think so. People in Michigan will be doing their taxes as we are collecting signatures. Will a tax increase play into my hands? Yes.

**Q. In reference to how angered many voters may be with current lawmakers, is one of the selling points of the FairTax that it couldn't be tinkered with by politicians after it was enacted?**

A. Yes. It would be constitutional. Taxes like the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) are statutory, that's why bureaucrats and lawmakers can constantly be changing them. The FairTax would be put into the constitution. It would be something the people decide to do that wasn't controlled by government. It could only be changed by a vote of the people. There are some people who don't like the FairTax because they wouldn't be able to manipulate it.

I'm telling you that the FairTax would make Michigan very attractive for businesses. And if we were the first to do it, we could count on it being written about in all of the business magazines and on the business pages of newspapers across the nation. People would read about it and say, "I want to be part of that."

It would bring business to Michigan. Right now, hardly any businesses want to come here.