



**MINNESOTA CITIZENS FOR TAX JUSTICE
ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS
May, 1988 - April, 1989**

May 1988 - Minnesota Legislature adopts \$100 million progressive tax package backed by MCTJ. Includes restoring some of the cuts made in renters credit/circuit breaker; removal of sales tax from aspirin & painkillers; and partial restoration of senior tax provisions.

August 1988 - MCTJ begins development of daily radio show.

September 1988 - Demo tape of radio show produced.

October 1988 - Wayne Cox writes op-ed criticizing national VAT idea and offering McIntyre's income tax improvements instead.

- MCTJ organizes press conference of organizations representing cities, seniors, and businesses & MCTJ to clarify misinformation used in campaign concerning effects of 1988 legislative changes in property tax. Independent-Republicans campaign of misinformation is exposed in editorials across state and in radio commentary by MCTJ. DFL retains wide House majority in a landslide.

November-December 1988 - MCTJ develops 1989 legislative agenda, briefs Speaker and new House Tax Chair in meeting at MCTJ.

January 1989 - Work begins on annual study. Legislature receives legislative agenda of MCTJ. MCTJ issues press releases on agenda; Governor's budget proposals.

- Wayne Cox resumes fulltime work for MCTJ at start of session. (Previously, he was half-time.) Cox provides testimony favoring retaining, but improving, corporate AMT; changes in renters credit; corporate tax rates.

February 1989 - Cox provides testimony supporting Governor's budget generally and rebutting business lobby spending cuts plans.

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March 1989 - Wayne Cox and Rose Hermodson of MN Federation of Teachers organize coalition of major groups to protest business lobby campaign to cut \$900 million from Governor's budget. The counterattack is effective. The \$500,000 ad campaign by business backfires. Governor and legislative leaders agree to spend an additional \$220 million—above what the Governor originally proposed.

April 1989 - MCTJ and CTJ release new Minnesota tax study *Making Progress* with widespread media coverage. Minneapolis *Star Tribune* describes MCTJ as a group "that has emerged in recent years as perhaps the most influential force for liberal causes at the Legislature."

Work intensifies to protect tax base and secure progress toward tax fairness as tax committees near the point of drafting their omnibus bills. The session will end May 22.

MCTJ succeeds in removing a payroll tax on employees from bills to provide mandatory health insurance for the uninsured.

Minnesota News Network, a 60-station network of commercial stations, tentatively agrees to broadcast one-minute weekday radio commentaries on public affairs by Wayne Cox for MCTJ.

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