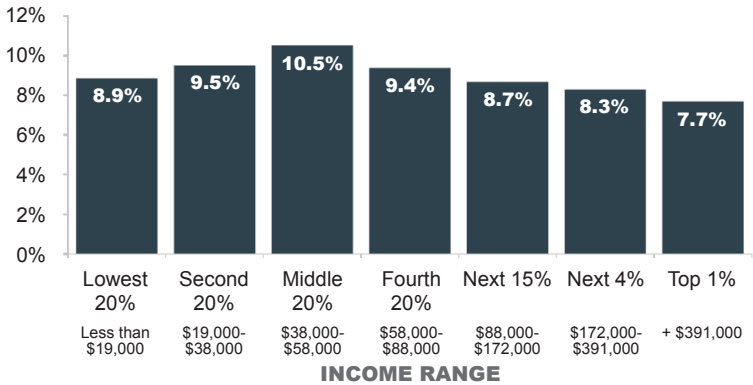


**As a Share of Income, Total Taxes are Lowest for Vermont's Wealthiest** Projected 2015 state and local taxes as a percentage of 2012 income, by income range

Vermont's income tax is progressive: To pay fairly for the public services we all use, higher earners are taxed at higher rates. But considering all state and local taxes—including income, property, and consumption taxes—the highest-income Vermonters contribute a smaller share of their incomes than do Vermonters with middle and lower incomes.



Source: The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, *Who Pays?*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition ©2015 Public Assets Institute



**Let's Build a Moral Economy for Vermont**

**Step One: Develop a Current Services Budget**

*A Current Services Budget is a projection of the real cost of the public services that elected officials have committed the state to provide.*

It would close the gap between Montpelier's approach to budget making and Vermonters' real needs. That would increase transparency and make meaningful public participation and progress possible.

Vermont projects the cost of maintaining roads and bridges and other transportation needs. We can do the same for human services, education, public protection, and other essential state services. A Current Services Budget invites an honest conversation about a moral economy where all Vermonters can prosper.



[www.publicassets.org](http://www.publicassets.org)  
802-223-6677 sarah@publicassets.org



[www.viavt.org](http://www.viavt.org)  
802-310-4625 debbie@viavt.org