

Dear Voters,

Property taxes only reminds you of who really owns your home and land. There was a time when land was considered an extension of the individual. To separate the two would have seemed inconceivable to our founding fathers. To them, taxing property would have been like taxing the existence of the individual. By taxing property, government not only assumes ownership but enslaves the individual that now rents the property from the government. The same goes for income for it too is property of the individual. If you don't pay the property tax, the government will claim all of it to rent out to someone else. The income tax is punitive in nature and used in the tax code to manipulate favoring or pitting one group of people against another. All this only promotes back door deals, campaign donations and corruption.

Not only does the property and income tax help the progressive promote social justice, but tying them to fund our public schools was ingenious to insure our slavery to these taxes. Over time, government has co-opted the primary responsibility of educating our youth creating its own monopoly. With society becoming more accustomed to delegating this parental responsibility, we have enslaved ourselves not only financially to this public entity but also its worldview teachings that may be contrary to that of the home. This inefficient monopoly is financially bankrupting us but what career politician is going to fight raising these taxes when the familiar mantra is sounded, "it's for the children and they are our future", from powerful unions and some parents who think the babysitting service is worth the price of around \$16,000 per pupil which they may or not even pay!

Let me be clear. The reality of public school is not going to go away nor should it. It will always have its place in society. My problem is the strangle hold it has over our property taxes and the monopoly it has been granted by our government in severely restricting the free market to provide the same service. It hinders the free market from providing the same service because you still pay for the public school through property taxes even if you opt out. The free market always empowers the consumer with choice, control and costs. There are seven states that grant Education Tax Credits to help parents with the real costs of educating their children who desire private schools, special tutoring or home schooling. In each case, they all report significant savings to the state while having superior results with standardized tests. Instead of spending \$16,000 per pupil for the public option, the Education Tax Credits allows parents to receive half or less for better results while having the choice and control of want kind of education they desire for their children.

The Education Tax Credit is a common sense idea that will cut our State Budget while at the same time not cut services to the public. The free market has proven it can to the same job better and cheaper. We need to change our paradigm in choosing free market solutions before enslaving ourselves to a Nanny State.

We need to change not only the spending side of government, but also its method of collecting revenue if we are to truly alter the tyranny our levels of government have over us. Simplify the tax code and you take power away from the politician and lobbyist while returning it back to the people. I have been investigating an idea that looks like it could not only work on the national level but the state too. It's a

tax everyone can afford because you pay it when you choose to make a transaction. There's no need to file tax returns every spring. It could easily replace the two taxes mentioned above **and many more.** With no property or income tax alone, how many businesses would come sprinting back over our borders? Gradually replacing virtually all taxes, fees and deductions with this one tax would render lobbyist powerless as well as our politicians. The danger is politicians **adding** this tax to feed their spending addiction. Go to www.apptax.com . Although this is a viable solution, it's not politically feasible currentlyat least with the nobles we now have in office. What if they were replaced though with those of us not infected with spending and power? The career politician will never simplify the tax code but only add to it.

A beginning seed of common sense in Albany,

Shawn Skeele