

Dear Legislators:

The state needs to raise money I get that, people don't want tolls, they don't want higher gas taxes, they don't want gambling, they don't want this, that and the other thing. It's easy not to want something it's another to need something, the wants of the few do not outweigh the needs of the many ( Spock ) we need road repairs all over, we need better mental health care, we need better school security, we need man many things and none of these things are FREE, they cost MONEY. So being blunt and realistic state officials have to do something which would generate revenue! its just a cold hard fact.....people must be practical, realistic, and within means.....including the state and it's legislative leaders...so the question is when a society is in need of things but lack the money to do these things the only option in reality is to do things you may not really want to do.... so how do you propose these things are all paid for? Too many Indians and not enough Chiefs it seems when it comes to Connecticut....

Toll's I support them if they raise revenue for the state, I would support a MINIMAL gas tax increase, I would support a minimal sales tax increase, I would support an expanded minimal sin tax on gambling, liquor and cigarettes. ( note the word minimal ). A vice is a vice and it's not on anyone other than the person with it, no one forces them to drink, gamble, smoke, it's why its called a vice...I could make some suggestions:

( a ) I proposed doing permits ( revenue ) for state licensed security officers to legally have the ability to carry tasers while on duty as an alternative to firearms, and better than pepper spray, I think about 60,000 security officers in the state.

( b ) Bill board advertising along the highway using electronic ones the state could charge business for 60 second ads. I would pay for it if was affordable as a small business and tax deductible.

( c ) Duel usage stops, in Danbury under the I-84 over pass on Eagle Road hot dog vendors use to fight over who would set up shop for the day. Eventually they were kicked out and no trespassing signs installed by the state. Rent the areas out ( Revenue ) to vendors, the vendors and customers loved it as in the summer it provides shade and in the rain shelter ( you could eat outside in the pouring rain ) Create vendor booths and pull off areas along the highways as a source of revenue through monthly rent or a bidding process.

( d ) Authorize all pubic safety people to photograph offending vehicles in fire zones and handicapped spots illegally parked to the commissioner of dmv for issuance of a ticket to the owner of the vehicle via e-mail. The data is embedded in the picture, date, time, even in some cases location. Give payment when the fine is paid to the reporting party say 5% to 10% of the revenue collected. It will address a quality of life issue and raise money for the state, it could also identify persons who do not have valid license plates on the front of their vehicles, use colored lights illegally. Raise state fines for the most common offenses like illegally parking in handicapped spots. We see this all the time on a routine basis in public. ( security officers, corrections officers, off duty police officers, firemen, paramedics, EMT's ) better enforcement of the laws and money money for the state.

( e ) Bill criminal offenders for their usage of police services, state court services, and related costs making crime not pay, but pay!

( f ) Pay to stay private correctional facilities for low level offenders sentenced to one year or less, nicer than a regular state prison but still a prison. Would you rather help defray the costs at \$25.00 a day and have a nice cell / room to yourself or be bunk mates with Melvyn the molester? I'd pay the \$25.00....

( g ) Use low level inmates / low threat inmates to maintain highways picking up refuse and making minor repairs, it's legal under state and federal law and they work for free vs union employees a cost saving measure to the state.

( h ) In this private club I use to belong to they sold crack and peel slot machine tickets for a quarter each, fun, amusing, and you could win up to \$100.00 allow it for all night time venues and nightclubs / bars. Permit required and a tax base. It's gambling in " moderation "....

( i ) Allow small licensed private casinos in the state many like myself don't want to make the drive to the two we have it's a schlep...thus everyone is loosing money but me :) if their was something locally I may be more inclined on a night out to go out for drinks and play the slots ( the quarter slots only as I'm cheap ).

( j ) Reduces state government agencies.....and spending where ever you can, how much money is wasted by the states buildings through unnecessary electrical usage? bet it's a lot. Does the state pay for the electricity on highways? kill it after eleven or midnight if you do that's why cars have headlights...

( k ) Authorize private marijuana use for recreational use 21 or older treated like liquor ( \$500.00 permit and taxes required ) I think it is Denver that made so much money they have to give refunds to state residents. Better then consuming liquor....\$25.00 an ounce tax...

Nip here, cut there, slash over their, trim here, look for reductions and savings where ever you can make them across the board, money is tight, times are hard, for everyone....you do what you have to do as long as you live within your own means....shop around too I damaged my new vehicle the dealer wants \$5,000+ dollars for the damage, I shopped around and found someone to fix it for \$1,000.00 big difference...I have been in business for 20+ years and not once has the state ever approached me for security services, think of that. Why not, they use the services of security contractors they should be approaching every state licensed security service to see who can offer the best price and good service.....this applies to everything the state uses or needs. Today you have to use coupon's, buy the on sale specials, and keep to your budget, the same applies to the State of Connecticut pretty much.

Best regards,

David Marchetti