

Here are my recommendations for the Tax Panel:

- 1) Sales and Use Tax – cut it in half to encourage residents from communities in surrounding states to shop here, and to stop CT residents from fleeing our high taxes
- 2) Estate taxes – get rid of them. Profits on retirement money and other savings have already been taxed once. Double taxation is unfair.
- 3) Personal Income Tax – make it the lowest in the nation....or zero, to attract residents to our state and stop the exodus of current residents.
- 4) Real Estate Conveyance Tax – eliminate it. The state provides no service that would warrant its collection of a tax on a private transaction between a buyer and a seller.
- 5) Business taxes – get rid of the surcharge on business and reduce confiscatory taxes on business. Haven't you noticed the flight of businesses from this state? They take jobs with them....time to turn that around with wiser tax policy.

Of course none of the above is possible without cutting spending. Budget gimmicks and borrowing don't fool anyone, and just reveal the level of irresponsibility of CT leaders. State workers need to pay for the bulk of their medical insurance AND pensions....the gravy train must stop. Bribing companies to locate here must stop. State agencies that interfere with business or setting up new businesses (endless permits, etc.) need to be demolished. Downsizing our state government, and its expenses, should be a priority in order to balance a much lower budget. Needless to say, Medicaid and welfare payments should be reserved for only the truly desperate needy after much investigation.

Should you have the guts to implement the above and withstand the pushback from unions, state workers, and aid recipients, you will find that companies, with their jobs and tax paying, will flock here. Jobs will be plentiful and tax receipts will be overflowing despite the lower rates. This has been the result every time it has been tried, beginning with JFK and the Congress that implemented his ideas after his death.

Linda Lavelle
Ridgefield, CT
(203) 438-2914