

Greetings Tax Panel,

Since I work and cannot take the day off to visit and I am not a paid lobbyist, I am e-mailing a few quick thoughts about real tax reform.

I am stuck living in Connecticut for at least another decade so I guess I need to participate in the process.

The problem with the way taxes are set up deals much more with the problem of spending and spending and spending. Also, how to cut spending without harming the small percentage of the population who genuinely have a hard time pulling themselves up by their own bootstraps.

Here are two suggestions without getting into a lengthy dissertation:

- 1) As quickly as possible switch over from Defined Benefit System for State and Local employees to a 100 % Defined Contribution System for State and Local employees. An exemption can be made for Police/Firefighters since they genuinely put their lives on the line. Obviously those that are close to retirement should not be effected.
- 2) Use the projected savings from above to get rid of all local property taxes on all vehicles and to begin to pay off Connecticut's massive debt load. In other words, drive a stake through the heart of the vehicle property tax.

Just in case you are wondering, I am not going to be getting any significant Defined Benefit Pension from the private sector and I know very few people who work for private companies that will be getting any significant Defined Benefit Pension. Nor should my employer be obligated to give me a Defined Benefit Pension.

Most Sincerely,

Tom Vrba  
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