

Revolving Door...

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regarding activities of the Assessor's Office has been forwarded to the Grand Jury. One of its members has been auditing the meetings of the Assessment Appeals Board, as well, to observe the Assessor's competency.

This is the first of two or more articles on the Assessor's Office. The League will interview the Assessor next for his response to these events and allegations.

- Wally Reemelin

Given...

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That's because such governments are a reflection of the population, if they are truly democratic. Which means if the people are mean and heartless, their government would be so in spades.

But even beyond these replies to the critics of capitalism, once the principles of a fully free society are compromised in the legal system, all hell breaks loose. Even if government might effectively lend its hand to people in dire straits, as soon as it does so nearly all in society insist that their agenda deserves support, too. There is no way to hold back this logic: a legal system that allows favoritism for the most extraordinarily needy will be unable to resist yielding to the pleas of all others, who would mount massive lobbying efforts to achieve this. All of it is all too evident in current welfare states across the globe, producing financial crises and more poverty everywhere than what a fully capitalist system would.

The bottom line is that a fully free society is really the best idea for human community life, and that even the hard-luck cases are more likely to benefit from it than they would from societies with governmental interference.

- Tibor R. Machan
Hoover Digest

What's On Your Mind?

Maybe you'd like to comment on an article you've read in this, or any local, newspaper. Perhaps there's an issue you think needs discussion. If it's something that affects Placer County taxpayers *The League wants to Know!* Send us your thoughts, views, articles, letters or comments and *Speak out!*

Placer Plague...

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Using COP's instead of issuing bonds has the disadvantages of (1) having the certificate holders hold a lien, not only on the construction being financed, but also on the land which belonged to the taxpayers prior to the financing and (2) being more expensive than bonds because the "loans" are not backed by the full faith and credit of the issuing authority. The advantage is that politicians do not need to get the taxpayer's approval to issue COP's. The catch is that the politicians have the advantage and the taxpayers have the disadvantages.

Auburn was among the first Placer County entities to issue a \$2.5 million COP. After learning the bond to buy the first Civic Center building, what is now City Hall, did not include what is now the police station, the City Council opted for a COP issued in September, 1990. That lot of politicians and bureaucrats were afraid to go back to the voters after the bond for what was believed to finance the entire Civic Center purchase was approved by fewer than a dozen votes.

The pestilence needed a decade to move across town to the Fulweiler Street dome. However, the curse is intensified with COP's of \$12 million and \$11 million issued respectively for the Taj Mahal at DeWitt Center and for the Juvenile Detention Center and \$30 million discussed for

additional South Placer facilities. This would total more than \$50 million to be paid from the General Fund in future budgets, reducing the money available for public safety and public works. But, our County Executive Officer tries to assure us, "everyone had to tighten their belts," accentuating fiscal irresponsibility with poor grammar.

The scourge has moved to Ferguson Road near Raleys Market, where Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) is building a new structure. PCWA is issuing \$33.6 million in COP's. However, PCWA directors will not even have to juggle their future budgets to pay for this debt. \$20 million will be extracted from future connection fees, the rest rolled into the second rate increase this year, leaving ratepayers no alternative—except at the ballot box.

- Dan Sokol



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- District 3: Jim Holmes**
- District 4: Kirk Uhler**
- District 5: Bruce Kranz**

