FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#29]

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I've was against this issue when it came up last year. I'm against your recommendations now. Not only was the Ballot #3 title/synopsis at the voting booth deceptive so is your 5-state comparison now. Tennessee is in session 45 days a year, Louisiana 65, Iowa 110, Oklahoma 120 and Missouri 150. Arkansas averaged is 30 days a year. Except for Iowa their population is 2 and 3 times that of Arkansas. Do you think this ballot issue would have passed if the terminology at the voting booth had read "increase the legislature's term limits" instead of setting term limits? Or a bill to "increase the pay of our elected officials"? In the executive branch, do you think we could get the Governor to buy his own groceries, do his own cooking, drive himself to and from work and reduce the expense of the plush Governor’s Mansion we put him in if we raise him from $87,000 to $140,000 annually? In conclusion I think our General Assembly should have the intestinal fortitude to make these salary/expense decisions. Not an autonomous 7-member committee they hand pick.
FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#28]

I do not support raising the pay of legislators, judges, governor, attorney general, etc. I do support making mileage rates equal for all state employees and legislators. If legislators are given a raise, it should be equal to the percentage given to state employees in the previous year.
Pay raises

Are you kidding me. This amount of increase in pay. And what have they done to earn that much more. I promise you no one will quit or leave their positions if this huge increase is not given to them. I think these pec are well compensated in other ways that maybe the commission is not taking into account. I think this commission needs to rethink what they are proposing.

Thank you

Thank you
Scott Minton

I have talked to quite a number of friends about the amounts of raises you have recommended. So far, I haven met anyone who thinks the amount is reasonable. Most people simply look aghast and shake their heads in disgust. I have however, not spoken to any member of those who stand to gain from your generosity with the payers money.

I did write to my representative and he pleaded the 5th in that he has just been elected and had no input into the decision regarding setting up the commission. He further indicated that because of his lack of power he would not affect much in the near future.

This entire affair of the House Joint Resolution to amend the constitution and set up a commission to set the salaries of elected officials etc. simply doesn't pass the smell test. It smacks of self interest and slips in additional term limits, something they all know the majority of us dumb tax payers don't understand. It seems obvious that the legislature is headed to a permanent sitting body with good salaries and extra good benefits.

The raises, especially the 140% recommended for legislators is wrong headed and an insult to those of us who pay the bill. I recommend 10%; that's about the most I ever got while working for 2 very profitable companies in this country.

Sincerely,
Scott L Minton
Adjusting salaries for Arkansas' Constitutional Officers, etc.

I am totally against raising salaries by these large increments. The state does not have sufficient funds for the Criminal Justice Systems and school funding that is needed and we certainly don't need to be extravagant with salaries.

Please know that this is probably the opinion of the majority of Arkansas citizens. It is a shame that this Notice wasn't published as a full page ad in the newspaper to get the attention that it deserves!!

Sevier County Clerk
Deborah K Akin

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Proposed Salary Increases

I oppose the proposed pay increases for the elected officials. Please note that a numerous number of state employees are eligible for the benefits/programs that they themselves help provide (WIC, food stamps, etc.). This type of monies would be better spent rewarding long standing state employees in my opinion.

Thank you,

Mitzi Reano
Ozark, AR

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