

Several conflicts of interest explain the budget stalemate between the governor and legislature of Illinois..

The governor wants a property tax freeze. A property tax freeze would freeze pay and benefits for municipal employees and other people who get a piece of property tax pies.

The Illinois Constitution includes a provision with the intent to freeze property taxes, but it's easy to get around. The provision sets an upper limit on the percent of property values that municipalities and counties can spend. But the sky's the limit on local spending because property values are easy to inflate. All it takes is a little collusion between local politicians and mortgage lenders; and this collusion has all too obviously occurred during the 40 years I've owned property.

Illinois legislatures and constitution-writers have never imposed a reasonable limit on how few municipal and county voters can elect a candidate to city councils, county boards, and seats in the Illinois legislature. Because candidates and incumbents can achieve and continue to hold an office with the consent of only a small percentage of property owners and constituents, officials owe a big debt of gratitude to the few people who vote for them.

The fiscal crisis originates in this problem. Voters tend to be people with government jobs; and they've been demanding an increasingly higher price in the currency of wages and benefits for their votes. School district employees are the worst offenders; and the majority of a tax bill supports their pretensions and power. They fail their constituents nonetheless, and create a need for oppressive and expensive policing; making employees of police departments the next worst offenders.

The cost of schools and police hides a need of elected officials to also keep construction contractors, construction laborers, and tax farmers in clover. Tax farmers are a class of people who've controlled government for millennia. They're the descendents of patriarchs who made fortunes in manufacturing and foreign trade; and invested it in government debt. Ultimately, government debt exists for their benefit. They roll some of their profits back into their tax farming businesses like they used to roll profits back into factories and shipping. The difference is that they now invest in propaganda to make little people accept, tolerate, and even like the feeble excuses for ever-increasing taxes.

Not too long ago, the Illinois General Assembly approved a program for the Illinois Treasurer to administer. It invites parents to invest in a college fund that will help offset the ever inflating cost of college education, that might otherwise foil the ambitions of working class people. The Treasurer invests

fund money in municipal debt. Unfortunately, parents who buy into the fund will pay ever-inflating property taxes on the excuse of Pre-K through 12 education; and worse, people who don't invest in the fund and don't even exploit the schools for babysitting and the dream of upper mobility will also pay ever-inflating property taxes on the excuse of Pre-K through 12 education.

The facts of elected officials and government employees are impossible to get around.

The solution to the problem is to look back in US and Illinois history. All landed property in Illinois once belonged to the Continental Congress, following the 1783 Treaty of Paris by which George III ceded his dominion to the Congress. The Congress then enacted a law for the survey and sale of the land.

The law dispossessed US, state, county and municipal government officials of any dominion over US soil in territories. It ended government dominion as completely as possible because it includes a template of the Bill of Sale and the Deed that each private purchaser would receive at the time of sale.

The Deed guarantees the land to the original purchaser, his heirs and assigns forever. Forever means forever. Government officials can't seize property for non-payment of a property tax. Such seizures are the only way to enforce the tax; and they exemplify the tendency of government employees, contractors and investors in government debt to prefer and support ignorant bullies in elected offices.

The 1785 law also limits government support for local schools to whatever rent local property owners can obtain from one or more square miles of land reserved from sale out every 36-square mile township. The reservations were also for forever. The minority of people who wanted a property tax in the early years of the new nation sold the land without any right to sell it. Their descendents and beneficiaries have relied on the ignorance as well as the bullying of the majority of people to impose and enforce the tax on landed property ever since.

Shame on every teacher who hasn't assigned this topic for homework. Shame on every other person who hasn't suspected that the topic exists and done independent research on it.