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Sales tax won't solve problems

Submitted by Faribault Daily News on Sat, 04/02/2011 - 23:15
editor@faribault.com

How do we want to be taxed?

We'll start with the fact that most of us really don't want to be taxed at all.

But as a collective, we must pay in some form for the services we receive.

A bill being promoted by Republicans would cut state aid to cities, called Local Government Aid, and instead relax the regulations surrounding cities' abilities to impose a sales tax.

What such a move does is force local government to bear what is much closer to the actual cost of services — and allows local government more direct control over its budget.

But such a move seems based on the premise that the money raised from a local sales tax will somehow equal the amount previously awarded in LGA. It won't. A sales tax ebbs and flows with the local economy. And not all local economies are created equal. Faribault would have to develop a much stronger retail base to be able to have a sales tax that would pay for the services the city provides.

And speaking of equal, LGA, which comes from statewide income and sales taxes, was created to force equality between property tax-rich and property tax-poor communities.

Faribault is among the property tax-poor, with more than a third of its property off the tax rolls.

No matter the talk of revenue-neutral budgets and forcing local government to live within its means, Faribault cannot continue to provide the services it does in the absence of LGA. There is some evidence — witness recent cuts in public safety — that it might not even be able to provide the most basic services without some additional revenue.

A local sales tax would be a volatile source upon which to budget, and in our community, we wonder whether it would even be enough.

The issue: A state bill being proposed would eliminate Local Government Aid and instead allow cities to impose a local sales tax.

Our view: In Faribault, a local sales tax wouldn't make up the difference and doesn't solve the problem — a property-tax poor base — that created the need for Local Government Aid in the first place.

Faribault Daily News editorials are the opinion of the editorial board, which consists of Publisher/Editor Paula Patton, Managing Editor Jaci Smith and News Editor Derek Wehrwein. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this

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There is really nothing wrong

Submitted by [ment](#) on **Sat, 04/09/2011 - 01:43.**

There is really nothing wrong with me paying taxes as long as the money that comes from people's taxes should be used to uplift the economic condition or daily living of the masses. Taxes intricately connected to the conditions of the world. Monday, April 18 is tax day 2011, and some Americans will try to slip some very creative tax deductions by the Internal Revenue Service. From flattop haircuts to human sperm contributions, auditors have seen it all. Do not take these as examples, however marvel at the ingenuity - or laziness, or lunacy - that went into these crazy tries at tax write offs. I found this here: [Bizarre tax deductions to brighten your tax day](#)

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No Local sales tax increase

Submitted by [notinmyby](#) on **Sun, 04/03/2011 - 11:40.**

Raising sales tax will hurt local business, who are already over taxed by high property taxes, and so on, tax should be based on every one and every thing, sales tax is on items we have a choice to buy any where and if the tax is higher here then down the road, people will buy out of town or online to avoid the tax, want to fix the problem tax internet sales,, it would fix the entire state budget problem if you live here, you should pay the normal sales tax no mater where the items come from,

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Phone: (507) 333-3100 • Fax: (507) 333-3102
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