

**Are Tax Hikes in Davis County Out of Control?**

Here we go again; everyone is complaining about taxes. Over the past several years, the biggest issue in Davis County has been taxes. And rightly so. With the property tax mess in Davis County and now with the proposed hike in sales taxes, many are wondering, when will it all end?

Next month, along with municipal races and vouchers, we will be voting on a sales tax increase in Davis County to pay for RAP, a UTA transit increase, and an increase for funding future transportation projects. As our county continues to grow, all of the projects involved are worthwhile recipients of increased funding. In fact, many business leaders are in favor of the sales tax increases. But does that mean we, as Davis voters, should bow down and accept every tax increase that comes along? As county residents, we continue to complain about taxes and some residents have formed groups to fight the constant battle of rising taxes. But will it help? It is great to have watchdog groups, because we need citizens to make government accountable. But, how much do we care about an efficient and competent government or are we satisfied in the reactionary complaints about our government?

In most cases and because of state laws, tax increases are revealed to citizens long before they are implemented. In addition, the public usually votes on any sales tax increase. Over the years, the Utah Legislature has bragged about how they have kept taxes down (which is debatable). As a result, county and city governments have had to raise taxes to maintain basic services, like transportation and roads. Again, that does not give Davis County government the justification of raising our taxes.

However, our "tax, spend and borrow" county government is basically a result of a consensus commission, with little or no oversight within. Once again, the Democratic Party, will continue to drive the point that a two-party government is a healthy government. Our one-party government serves no one but the ones who are elected. This is not a rant and "whine" point. But, it is the best way to fight any "closed door" decisions and provide debate. Of course, this will not solve all of our complaints about government, but at least the issues will be up front and in the open.

Nevertheless the GOP will continue to attack Democrats of whining about Republicans. In fact, Republicans have accused Democrats of labeling voters as "stupid and ignorant". But, the real truth is how the GOP candidates have taken advantage of voters by not campaigning, not being truthful about taxes, and not caring because they know they will

win. As a consequence, we are paying more taxes and congestion on our roads continues to increase.

On Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, the Davis County Democratic Party will be hosting a public forum on taxes. Tax Night will have several speakers to discuss taxes and the 2008 elections. For more information, please contact the Davis Democratic Party.

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