

New taxes could help state with shortfall

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BY DARREL ROSE
SPECIAL TO THE ITEM

I'm a Republican, a philosophical supporter of the Tea Party movement, and I want new taxes, fees, and toll roads. This proposal, before one objects, is consistent with being a Reagan conservative.

Before the reader wonders what leafy green substance dipped in a hallucinogens I've been smoking, let me cut straight to the chase and list them:

1. Tax — TDCJ commissary purchase tax for offenders.
2. Fee — Customer service fee of \$1 per visit for TDCJ offenders to use prison commissaries.
3. Fee — Handling fee of 5 cents per item for offender commissary purchases.
4. Fee — Parking fee for TDCJ offender visitors.

5. State park pass fee — The same fee as charged at state parks by Texas Parks and Wildlife shall be charged at TDCJ facilities.

6. New Toll Roads — Every TDCJ facility with an entrance more than a 10th of a mile should be turned into toll roads during visitation hours. Charge an initial toll of \$5 and then \$1 per mile.

In these economically challenging times instead of punishing productive behavior through taxation, let's instead punish criminals through the goods and services they consume. What is a felon to do?

Vote for the politician who proposes, passes and enacts these taxes out of office? What is the felon's family to do? Vote against said politician? A anecdotal analysis of the probability indicates that if they do vote, they already vote against

conservative politicians.

In this last election, we the people elected politicians with bold rhetoric to challenge federal and state governments to get back to basics and be fiscally responsible.

Fiscal responsibility is finding ways to make basic services cost efficient and distributing the cost for said government service responsibly...it isn't very responsible or fair to place all the burden for prisons on honest, law abiding citizens.

These new taxes, fees and toll roads will more fairly distribute prison expenses to those who incur or contribute to the expense.

It is time for bold rhetoric candidates to be bold, innovative legislators. It is time to tax the convicted felons.

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