

*tom milosevic*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#8]

HYPERLINK "mailto:themilosr@cox.net"themilosr@cox.net  
I believe all of government is over payed an need to have income cut by 20% and receive no increase for five years other then cost of living the same as social security people do.

*Bean, Betty J.*

Pay Increases

I am opposed to these pay increases being put in place. They were not voted on by the public who elected you...another underhanded move by the government. Anyone who helps put this in place or takes this increase refuse to vote for again and I will work to inform others of what you have done. You are robbing the people of Arkansas and most are in need of help more so than you are.

Very sincerely,

Betty Petrik

Betty Bean  
Admin. Assistant Production/Maintenance

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*Beth Ephlin*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#3]

HYPERLINK "mailto:bephlin@gmail.com"bephlin@gmail.com

I am dismayed to learn that the Legislature is considering giving such an extreme pay raise to legislators. While I believe that our legislators do important work, I do not believe that they should receive an increase of such size when the citizens of the state were promised a more fiscally responsible legislature.

How can the Legislature consider such a raise after only giving state employees a meager 1% raise this year? Their raise came after many years of receiving nothing. How can the Legislature justify such a raise when most full-time state employees come nowhere near making \$39,400 yearly?

How can the Legislature even consider such an immense raise when teacher insurance and the EBD are in crisis? This increase would ensure that a PART-TIME legislator would make more than a first-year teacher.

How can the Legislature justify more than doubling legislator salary when they are part-time legislators with careers outside of their legislative duties? Are the legislators going to take on more duties to justify their raise in pay? Are we now going to consider converting to a full-time legislative body?

There are many more ways that such a large amount of money could be used. Give state employees another raise. Use the money to revamp EBD and make it a responsible body. Help teachers pay for their insurance. Just realize that doubling legislator salaries is NOT fiscally responsible, and is a slap in the face to most citizens of the state.

*Billy Smothermon*

Mileage and Reimbursement

Why is the commission advocating perpetuating a double standard on mileage?

Is the commission aware that there is already mileage and reimbursement policy in place?

The existing DFA policy is \$.42 per mile.

Arkansas State employees have never gotten reimbursed at the Federal rate.

What justifies a Legislator (or anyone else in State employment, for that matter) getting 133% of the current State Mileage Reimbursement?

The commission's recommended Per Diem policy is sound and in line with existing policy.

Please see:

<http://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/travel/Pages/faqs.aspx#1>

*Cecilia Harberson*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#6]

HYPERLINK "mailto:jcharberson@gmail.com"jcharberson@gmail.com

It's my understanding that these men and women were elected to serve the people - not the other way around. Being in the legislature is not a career choice; it's a time you have to listen to your constituents and make decisions to better our state's operation...not to better your bank account and your lifestyle. Please reconsider these actions.

*Charlotte Lindsey*

Do Not Double Salary Increases

To Committee Members,

I am not opposed to giving salary increases to our elected officials that are inline with the costs of living increases given to Social Security or Veteran recipients.....which is less than 2% !! But to DOUBLE salaries is a slap in the face to everyone else who holds a full time job in the state of Arkansas and pays taxes!!!

I am a teacher with 39 years of experience and I have not received a raise in over 10 years. I hold a Bachelor's and two Master's degrees as well as hours above and beyond.

When I look at the charts of Average teacher's salary for the state I am receiving LESS than the state's average. I certainly feel that my years of dedicated service and my education places me in a status that is above the AVERAGE.

With all the increases in health insurance premiums and the decrease in benefits I am actually making less than I was 10 years ago! To me that is a disgrace to our states education system. As much as I LOVE my job, I would love to retire and spend more time with my grandchildren, but I will need to work 3 more years to reach my full retirement age of 66 in order to qualify for Medicare instead of paying the extremely high premiums for retirement insurance.

Please give serious consideration to the amount of these salaries! These large raises will only hurt the tax payers in our state and will in turn not reflect favorably on our elected officials.

Sincerely  
Charlotte Lindsey  
Harrisburg

*cherokee47@cox.net*

Legislator Pay

The proposed salary increase recommendations for state legislators and others, is way out of line. Is there no regard by the Commission for the taxpayers money? Based on the article I read in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, even if the expenses of the legislators were to be rolled into their overall salary, their total compensation would be an increase of 30%. The average private sector worker's pay increase is about 3%, and the social security increase this year was only 1.7%. Legislator positions are meant to be part-time service positions, not career positions. In addition, the wage increase recommendations for the governor, judges, attorney general, secretary of state, and other higher level government positions are shocking.

We the people will need to put our trust in the hands of the Legislature, in the hopes that they will have a better understanding of the real marketplace, and disregard the Commission's recommendations.

Thank you,

Jerry Whitehead  
Bella Vista, AR

*Donna Hopper*

Proposed Salary Increases

I was outraged to learn about the excessive pay raises proposed for our elected officials. There is good reason they used this little Commission, instead of putting it to the people to vote on. The people would NEVER stand for such nonsense!! These officials are supposed to be serving the people who elected them, not stuffing their pockets with tax dollars. Many of the salaries are double, or almost double and others are MORE than double

I am guessing you just thought the people would just go along with this. I hope to God you are wrong! Your "trickle down economics" of tax dollars into our officials pockets does not bode well. On top of this, these folks do not even come close to actually working the number of hours most of us do. Maybe a couple of weeks a year at best??!! How in the world could you even begin to justify such enormous increases???

A concerned voter, Donna Hopper

*Erin Chapman*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#4]

HYPERLINK "mailto:erin.gaylor@gmail.com"erin.gaylor@gmail.com

At a time when the legislature is considering doing away with the Public Option and refusing to consider raising minimum wages, I think it is outrageous to even think about raising their salaries. They are over paid for time worked already! So they are going to cut taxes and raise their salaries. Now where do you suppose that money going to come from.

*Frank Barry*

salary increase

I do not object to a reasonable salary increase for elected State legislative officials, however find your recommendation of an almost 150% increase obnoxious in the extreme. Most full time salaried State employees receive an average increase of approximately 3%. Social Security recipients get an average of less than 2%. Full time private sectors employees average about 5% and most Federal employees, when given increases, average less than 6%. How can you find a 150% increase to be pragmatic, reasonable, or sensible. I assure you that a voter in Arkansas I will do all within my legal bounds to see to it that any State legislator who votes for this obnoxious increase is not re-elected in this State in any capacity whatsoever. I will do all possible within my legal means as a voter to see to it that this commission is either abolished or its present members are replaced by responsible citizens as soon as possible. State legislators are part time employees of the voters of this State, most of whom work less than 20 hours a week when they work. What you propose is outrageous. A concerned voter.

*Glen G. Pate*

Proposed Pay

Hello;

As a voter in the state of Arkansas, I just want to say how strongly I disagree with the amount of your proposed pay increase for Arkansas legislators. I do not object to a modest pay increase but 2.5 times is ridiculous. Our representatives SERVE the people, not for pay but for the privilege(duty) of serving. This will only place a high burden on citizens of our state, making them the servants of government.

If your proposal is enacted it will create a new class of career politicians in Arkansas. Term limits have already been increased to a number of years that approach retirement with many private companies and doubling legislators' pay will not benefit constituents as incumbents usually are re-elected as it is now. Arkansas should not become Washington, D.C.!

This leaves me to wonder "What is next?"

Sincerely,

Glen G. Pate

Mena, AR

*Ian Hope*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#5]

HYPERLINK "mailto:ian\_hope@sbcglobal.net"ian\_hope@sbcglobal.net

Regarding the intent to raise the pay of all constitutional officers and legislatures. This is a travesty. There are much more deserving, longer serving state employees who have not had a raise in pay or merit increase in years and now after just forming this commission it will immediately give raises to those that knew full well the pay and benefits of being part time employees. How could the commission even have had time to make this decision? I am going on record as being completely opposed to any raise in pay for any state elected official. This is an unfair burden on the taxpayer with no added benefit.

*Jackie Bosshardt*

Pay Raises

I am just hoping that your proposed raise amount will not be final, as that amount would be way out of line in this day of people out of work and finding it hard to make ends meet. I am not against a raise for the people serving, but what you are doing is creating a new breed of life-time politicians with this raise. The way I understand it is that the Legislators would lose their reimbursement amounts, and then it would just be added to their salary, but then get a \$ 10,000.00 raise on top of that. Has the commission even looked at the cost of this amount of increase would cost the taxpayers. I just feel like you need to be more realistic in setting this amount of salary.

Thank you for Hopefully listening,

Jackie Bosshardt

*Jeanne*

Raises

Oh please. this is a horrible joke. Right ? I am 72 years old I live on less than 25 thousand a year. I coupon and thrift shop and my son helps out when he can. I cannot seem any of These people doing doing as well as am on my income. No no no ! Please do not do this...  
H Jeanne Gann.  
Hot Springs

Raises

No. No. No! This is so wrong

*Jenny*

SALARIES

I am strongly opposed to any salary increases for the legislature or elected public officials. The cowardly way they are going about trying to obtain them by using a so called citizens commission is disgraceful. The rank and file state employees that work day after day doing the states business are the ones that desperately need a raise. These politicians knew what the salaries were going to be before they ran for office and only work part time if that. Sent from my iPad. Jennipher Boone

*Judy Tanner*

Pay raises for Legislators

To Committee members:

As a voter in my great State of Arkansas I feel a need to state my feelings about increases for pay to our Legislators. In my career as a banker we were doing good to get 2% to 5% because of down times. Who gets : 100% pay increase? Sure shouldn't be elected servants of the people. I know they get other benefits such as travel expenses, paid for trips and more. How much time is actually spent on the job?

We are in lean times. I know. I'm a retired citizen and find it hard sometimes making it. You as a committee need to consider what our citizens are going through before electing such a huge increase. I could even accept 25%.

I am truly concerned about decisions such as this. Please, for the sake of our state, reconsider the proposed increase.

Thank you  
Judy Tanner  
113 East I Ave  
North Little a Rock, Ar 72116

Sent from my iPad

*Kim Conant*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#2]

HYPERLINK "mailto:tnanock@gmail.com"tnanock@gmail.com

The amount of these raises are ridiculous! Where is this money coming from? Public School Employees have been fighting for years for reasonable insurance rates (mine went up 300% this year) and have been told over and over that there is no money. But yet, there's enough money for \$20,000-\$60,000 raises???

*lora1936@att.net*

I would like to know if the increase in pay for the representatives in our Arkansas government is

Sent from Windows Mail

*Michael Kalagias*

Pay raises

Dear Sirs:

There were no shortage of candidates vying for office during last year's elections despite the "low pay." Pay levels were obviously high enough to attract more than adequate numbers of people to do the job, therefore NO pay raise should be needed. Public officials are public SERVANTS, low pay should and is to be expected. Tax cuts and a balanced budget have been promised, meaning an increase in pay will result in cuts to much more important services. Please reconsider your current recommendation, and limit any raises to no more than a Cost Of Living Adjustment. "Keeping up with the Joneses is not a basis for good government.

Michael Kalagias  
Garfield, AR

*noah33@windstream.net*

Your recommendations

Dear Commission Members:

I never thought I would come down on the side of the Tea Party, but after your tasteless, exorbitant, and otherwise stupid recommendations for increasing the salaries of legislators and elected state officers, I am not only utilizing their information, but when they initiate an amendment canceling the initiative which ultimately formed your commission, I will gladly offer financial and other support to stop you from such actions in the future and hopefully the new initiative will void any action taken by you.

As for your recommendations, I read that one of your criteria was what surrounding states pay such positions.

As for that, please tell the public, did you:

- a. factor in the length of time legislators in other states were "working" compared to Arkansas?
- b. factor in the per capita income in the other states, compared to Arkansas?
- c. factor in the population of the other states, compared to Arkansas?
- d. factor in the "fringe" benefits of other states compared to Arkansas?

If you answer no to all of these, then your comparison is worthless, in my opinion.

If you answered no to ANY of the four, your comparison is worth very little.

You make these recommendations and try to sweeten them with the recommended removal from the legislator their up to \$14000 or so of reimbursed "expenses."

Yet even with that taken as fact (which is without a doubt questionable), your recommended raises in salaries : big time double digits. And this is for a group which is unanimously on record as determined to remove from 200,000 Arkansans health insurance which would eventually cost not much more than your recommended raises. That is not what I call justice, and certainly shows no mercy whatever. It is not only an insult to these unfortunate Arkies, but an even larger insult to the hardworking Arkies who are being paid minimum wage, who is more than most of these legislators and state officers deserve for the minimal work they do.

In a word, your recommendations are unbelievable, and I can only hope that you end up with the appropriate e on your face -- preferably rotten!

Noah Williamson, Retired  
81 End of Trail Rd.  
Mount Ida, AR 71957  
noah33@windstream.net

*Rene' LaVergne*

FW: Independent Citizens Commission [#7]

HYPERLINK "mailto:cajundvm@gmail.com"cajundvm@gmail.com

No pay raise. It's ridiculous for the governor to institute a hiring freeze and the Attorney General to fire 20 or 30 be exempt from hiring freeze, and put in 20 or 30 political croneys, then get a raise before doing anything meaningful. All departments have to do more with less and the crooks at the top get a pay raise?

You people (citizens commission) are idiots, or crooks, or both!

No to pay raise.

No to pay raise.

No to pay raise.

*restless@pgtc.com*

No one deserves a raise that size. I don't think deserve on yet. Robbing reserves & capital gain

Sent from Windows Mail

That's what I make in a year, full time! They, part time. Gilliam & Dismang is in there up to their necks. So mu for independent Comm.. Must be Repb. For some reason they think better than the poor. Will excess pay come from reserves, if anything left after Asa, senior citizens, education, prison system? I think I know, Health care, known to you as Obamacare. Hope other people see this. What a disgrace trying to get so much more money from such a poor state. Gonna end up like Kansas!!  
John Lantos & Rose

PS. Wife sent email earlier but didn't show all she wrote, so thought I'd get mine in for her. Maybe you could take her disability to help pay for this. That's coming next!

Sent from Windows Mail

*rufus\_herndon@yahoo.com*

AR Legislator Salary Increases

Members of Citizen Commission:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the increase of salaries for the AR Legislators. I have been an employee of the State of AR for the past 23 years. During my tenure, I have never received a salary increase of more than 2 % and a merit increase of more than 3 %. I am unsure of how you can justify the large increase of pay for our Legislators. Due to the fact the AR Legislator members are also allowed to access our retirement and insurance plans, I feel they should be compensated the same as all other state employees.

According to the 2014 AR Occupation Employment Report, the average salary is \$18.42 per hour. How can we justify paying part time employees more than another state employee who works 40 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Also, I feel the per diem and mileage reimbursement should also be adjusted according to the current state employee rate. I would assume most of the current AR Legislators have other employment and do not work 40 hours per week, 52 weeks a year for the state. Also, I feel it is only fair to look at the average part time salary of all AR citizens.

Your service to our great state is very appreciated. Hopefully, you will at least explore options that are truly fair to all citizens of Arkansas and my fellow state employees.

Respectfully,  
Artie Herndon  
2861 Strawberry Dr  
Fayetteville, AR  
72703

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HYPERLINK "<http://www.avast.com/>" This email is free from viruses and malware because HYPERLINK "<http://www.avast.com/>"avast! Antivirus protection is active.

*Sam Emerson*

Proposed salary raises for Legislators, etc.

Dear Commissioners;

I applaud your recent proposal to increase the salary levels for Legislators and Constitutional Officers. For far too long Arkansas has paid lower than average salaries for Legislators which has allowed only those who have comfortable, lucrative regular employment to offset the ridiculously low salaries. Further, I am happy that you have eliminated the expense reimbursement system for "office expenses." Expense reports are a notorious system open to outright abuse or, at best, a lapse in judgment. The increases for Constitutional Officers is likewise prudent and long overdue.

Quite frankly, I was pleasantly surprised when I read of your proposal last week. Amendment 94 may work out to be a long awaited improvement in the way business is conducted in Arkansas.

I predict that because of your efforts to increase the salary range for Legislators, Arkansas may see a new level of interest by citizens who could not otherwise consider running for a position in either the State House or Senate and perhaps for Constitutional Office.

Thanks for your Service,

Sam Emerson  
Fayetteville, Arkansas

*Sandra Brad berry*

Salary

I am totally against the new salary proposals. You were established under false pretenses. The ordinary public had no idea what the issue meant on the ballot. The wool was pulled over a non suspecting populace. If the issue had truly stated what it was it never would have passed!  
Sandra bradberry, greenbrier, ar

Sent from my iPad

*Stephen Tipton*

Fwd: Independent Citizens commission?

Stephen Tipton  
Centennial Bank

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ken Sparrow <[HYPERLINK "mailto:klsparrow@conwaycorp.net"klsparrow@conwaycorp.net](mailto:klsparrow@conwaycorp.net)>  
Date: February 4, 2015 at 9:58:30 AM CST  
To: <[HYPERLINK "mailto:LarryR@citizenscommission.ar.gov"LarryR@citizenscommission.ar.gov](mailto:LarryR@citizenscommission.ar.gov)>, <[HYPERLINK "mailto:ChuckB@citizenscommission.ar.gov"ChuckB@citizenscommission.ar.gov](mailto:ChuckB@citizenscommission.ar.gov)>, <[HYPERLINK "mailto:MitchB@citizenscommission.ar.gov"MitchB@citizenscommission.ar.gov](mailto:MitchB@citizenscommission.ar.gov)>, <[HYPERLINK "mailto:BarbaraG@citizenscommission.ar.gov"BarbaraG@citizenscommission.ar.gov](mailto:BarbaraG@citizenscommission.ar.gov)>, <[HYPERLINK "mailto:StuartH@citizenscommission.ar.gov"StuartH@citizenscommission.ar.gov](mailto:StuartH@citizenscommission.ar.gov)>, <[HYPERLINK "mailto:BrendaJ@citizenscommission.ar.gov"BrendaJ@citizenscommission.ar.gov](mailto:BrendaJ@citizenscommission.ar.gov)>, <[HYPERLINK "mailto:StephenT@citizenscommission.ar.gov"StephenT@citizenscommission.ar.gov](mailto:StephenT@citizenscommission.ar.gov)>  
Subject: Independent Citizens commission?

The Governor, House Speaker, Senate President Pro Tem and Supreme Court Chief Justice appoint the people on this commission and it is called independent? In other words the people on commission are hand picked by the same people who will benefit from a pay raise. In the political world this qualifies for being called an Independent Citizens Commission. Commissioner Graves justifies increasing this because the pay of our elected officials is an embarrassment. What should be an embarrassment to the elected officials and their hand-picked commission cronies is the low average pay for the people of Arkansas. Graves should check and see where Arkansas ranks in that category. The last time I checked it was 48th.

Everything will be OK if we just pay out politicians more. It will assure that Arkansas has the same high quality people it now has running for office. Commissioner Berry says that very low salaries were excluding a lot of people from running, yet there never seems to be a shortage of people running for these so-called underpaid positions. Also, when was the last time a person was elected to office in Arkansas that came out poorer than he went in? In other words, Arkansas will have higher-paid crap.

There should be a repeal of part of Amendment 94 by in 2016 and replaced with one that requires any pay increase for elected officials be put before the voters in a general election to approve (not a special election). The only surprising thing is that the hand-picked commission did not come up with a 500% raise for the poor starving politicians. After this raise the commission will be limited to 15% per year increase. You can bet the 15% is a lie to happen every year all the while the people of Arkansas will see their wages go down. This is a first-class example of the so-called me-first attitude. To help pay for this pay increase, some of the reimbursements will be eliminated, more BS. Nothing will be eliminated. What you can more likely count on is higher reimbursements, not less.

Ken Sparrow  
Conway, Arkansas

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HYPERLINK "http://www.avast.com/" This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
HYPERLINK "http://www.avast.com/"www.avast.com

*Steve Bivins*

Legislature Raise

Not sure what you are thinking when you think it is a good idea to give raises to the legislators of over 50% ....WOW!!  
If these people wanted to be put on the ballot for election then I think it would be a good idea to have this increase to be voted on by the people that actually pay their salaries ..not your commission

When does the greed by politicians stop ...hopefully with this letter

Steve Bivins  
4501 Sweetgum Lane  
Fayetteville AR 72745  
Phone # 479 789 4650

*Tim Crouch*

Salaries

I just heard about raising the salaries of Law makers of Arkansas.. I'M SO AGAINST THIS, you can't believe it... They should be there to serve.. PLENTY of outside influence to help pay them under the table and set them all up with PLUSH jobs after serving.... Maybe the independent Citizens Commission should be done away with

I'm a registered voter in Sharp county arkansas, and will spread the word on this and fight it with all i can..  
TIM CROUCH, Strawberry Arkansas...

*tjohnson7580*

New legislature pay raise

To Whom It May Concern,

This is an outrage and slap in the face to the people of Arkansas! These huge pay raises should not happen until after the working public has a significant increase in pay and our disabled/social security recipients get an increase more than a \$15 yearly increase!

The job of state legislature etc are "public servant" positions, and should be paid the same as any other public servant job, such as police and teachers, except that amount for state politicians should be cut in half since they are "part time" positions.

I oppose these pay increases that should be voted on by the public instead of being handed out by a panel, and also oppose these pay increases because the politicians should be more concerned with giving the public who voted them into office increases in pay before lining their own pockets!

From a Concerned Voter

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

*Wayne Willems*

I oppose wage increases

To: The Independent Citizens Commission

HYPERLINK "mailto:LarryR@citizenscommission.ar.gov"Larry Ross, Chairman  
HYPERLINK "mailto:ChuckB@citizenscommission.ar.gov"Chuck Banks, Vice Chairman  
HYPERLINK "mailto:MitchB@citizenscommission.ar.gov"Mitch Berry  
HYPERLINK "mailto:BarbaraG@citizenscommission.ar.gov"Barbara Graves  
HYPERLINK "mailto:StuartH@citizenscommission.ar.gov"Stuart Hill  
HYPERLINK "mailto:BrendaJ@citizenscommission.ar.gov"Brenda James  
HYPERLINK "mailto:StephenT@citizenscommission.ar.gov"Stephen Tipton

With all due respect, I oppose any new wage increases for the governing body and its members of the State of Arkansas. This includes all branches of government at all levels, including members of the House, Senate, Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary, Attorney General, Judicial (Judges), etc.

Thank you

Wayne Willems

Traskwood, Arkansas

HYPERLINK "mailto:me@waynewillems.com"me@waynewillems.com

501-249-3103

*Wesley Oxner*

Pay raises

I believe pay raises are needed but the ones being considered are an insult to the citizens of Arkansas Sent fr  
my iPhone

*zfmobley*

Salary increases

My Public Comment

You have no moral mandate to raise salaries as this Amendment was achieved by trickery. The title on ballots November obscured legislative intent.

Rep. Hendren has expressed my concerns. Additionally our economy is in poor shape despite all the glowing nudges by media and administration. The Arkansas Constitution demands a balanced budget which saved our state from the duress of many other states during the recession. We have entangled our taxpayers in the healthcare trap of dependency for Medicare funds. Those monies and the task of paying for uninsured illegals healthcare will overextend us. This recovery is by no means assured. I suggest caution until we have true stability economically.

Representatives would be wise to consider citizens pocketbooks before changing completely the salary structure benefiting themselves. This is a rural small state. Without the Shale boom we would have been forced to cut a cut. Why would any responsible figure wish that again?

I suggest you take a deep breath and responsibly address salary concerns. The proposals outlined in my newspaper suggested a giddy bunch of children grabbing at candy.

Lenora (I Always Vote) Mobley

Batesville

*zfmobley@sbcglobal.net*

Re: Salary increases

Damn, baby! Couldn't have said it better myself!

-z

On Monday, February 2, 2015 10:24 AM, zfmobley <zfmobley@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

My Public Comment

You have no moral mandate to raise salaries as this Amendment was achieved by trickery. The title on ballots November obscured legislative intent.

Rep. Hendren has expressed my concerns. Additionally our economy is in poor shape despite all the glowing nudges by media and administration. The Arkansas Constitution demands a balanced budget which saved our state from the duress of many other states during the recession. We have entangled our taxpayers in the healthcare trap of dependency for Medicare funds. Those monies and the task of paying for uninsured illegals healthcare will overextend us. This recovery is by no means assured. I suggest caution until we have true stability economically.

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Lenora (I Always Vote) Mobley  
Batesville

Sent from my iPad