

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message | Glenn Heran | April 2013

A critical part of the mission of the Taxpayers' Association is to limit government. The best way to accomplish this is to limit government to the efficient delivery of essential government services. Thus the question we as taxpayers must continually ask is "What are the essential services of government that require us to pay tax?"

Broadly, in terms of local government, its function is to provide good order and stability. Primary services including public defense such as police, application of law, provision of roads and parks and reasonable zoning are clearly essential government functions that require the efficient use of tax dollars.

Beyond this, what else do you want local government to do for you that you, the private sector, cannot do for yourself? So ask yourself, should government be in business? Clearly the electric issue has proven government's woeful inability to compete with the private sector. How about marinas or trash pickup? What about baseball? How about economic development? Should the government attempt to pick winners in business and use your tax dollars to do so?

Resist the temptation to seek government as the solution to a problem. Asking the government for services beyond their natural functions will grow government bureaucracy that will not only cost you money but ultimately will erode your liberties.

Glenn Heran