



Elected officials too beholden to public employee unions; Pa. must act to outlaw synthetic marijuana - Dec. 3 letters to the editor

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Express-Times Letters to the Editor

Serve the public, not the unions

The federal panel on the U.S. debt has clearly pointed out the dire financial condition our nation is facing and **recommended needed changes**. How did it happen that our nation, our states, our counties and our municipalities are nearly all on the verge of bankruptcy?

The problem is the same people who are involved in electing our officials are in large measure the beneficiaries of out-of-control public expenditures. The politically active public employee unions elect the officials who turn around and pay the public employees back.

According to the Cato Institute, public employees earn about 50 percent more than private employees and have better retirement benefits. And who pays for this? Taxpayers.

Three of the most powerful groups influencing our public officials are lawyers, teachers unions and public employee unions. Taxpayers are not treated better because they are not paying adequate attention to who is being elected and why they are being elected. There are some indications, however, such as the results of the last election and the growth of the Tea Party movement, that some changes are coming.

What can we taxpayers do? Pay more attention. Let our elected officials know what we expect from them and help elect officials who get the message. Public officials, do unto the people you are supposed to represent as you would have them do unto you. Serve the people, not the public unions.

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Pa. should ban synthetic marijuana