

REVISED
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EDITORIAL

COST of GOVERNMENT

Do we have problems in county government? Absolutely. Can we reduce the cost of county government? Absolutely. Can we reduce the number of employees? Absolutely. But, in order to do this we have to have all county officials on the same page. Thus far this has not been possible. When you have a system in effect for 30 years or more you do not change it overnight.

In defense of our employees they serve more people on a daily basis than all other government offices in Lake County combined. Our employee's face tremendous challenges daily and respond professionally and most definitely deserve an adequate salary. They are much below the average salaries of other governmental agencies.

I could make a lot of comparisons from the townships all the way to the federal government, but we cannot have an effect on those governmental bodies; we can only address our responsibilities and lack of reductions in a cost effective government at the county level.

In Lake County government we saw several elected officials convicted of wrong doings and removed from office. We realize we need to put forth a more professional effort. I am not trying to cover up for our shortcomings but we see this happen in all governmental agencies. Ours is local so it is headlined daily. Can we stop corruption in government? I would certainly hope so.

We see serious problems in the federal government. The special interest groups, the massive fund raising, the pork barrel appropriations, the inside trading of stock without investigations, and the contracts given out in millions of dollars with no bidding process. The special privileges and laws especially designed for the United States Congress, and the United States Senate. They no longer relate to the average American. If we did any of these things at the county level, we would be run out of office. Salaries, junkets, at the federal level, and bipartisan politics cost the taxpayers millions of dollars a year, but that seems to be acceptable because of the status of representing our government in the offices of our President, Vice President, and two houses of Congress. There is much more