

Dear Editor,

Thanks for continuing to show the Federal Debt and Debt per Person in your newspaper. Some studies show Texas has some of the highest debt and property tax rates in the nation. I've heard estimates that unfunded liabilities for the federal social programs, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid etc., are approaching \$90 Trillion. Would you consider adding those to your figures?

Your latest Debt watch box shows each citizen's share of the federal debt to be \$52,886.30 based on a federal debt of **\$16 Trillion, 754 Billion, 264 Million** and change. That Debt per Person is more than the average family in Cooke County makes in a year. Assuming a family size of four, that means it would require a typical family to work four years and take nothing out to pay the mortgage, groceries, gasoline, taxes, etc., just to pay off their part of the existing federal debt. If you figure in the unfunded Federal Social Liabilities, State & Local Debt, that could approach 20 years, maybe more.

I personally don't plan on working another 20 years, having worked more than 40 already. Should I be?

It's well documented that average US household income has declined in the past five years. I suspect the exception may be government employees. I've seen several articles about government employees getting raises in the 3% range. Most of us in the private sector have seen a net reduction in take home pay. On top of that, Social Security taxes went up this year. Health care costs continue to go up. Most property owners recently got a bill for higher property taxes. Those working in the private sector are getting squeezed on both ends but we continue to be asked to pay more of a shrinking pool of after-tax income for "urgent" government needs. Those cups of coffee are sure adding up...

NCTC has proposed a \$14.8 Million bond issue. It's definitely smaller and better focused on academics than the past. That is real progress. According to NCTC's last board meeting documents, they show \$10.7 Million in Board Reserves and a total of \$22.7 Million in the bank. Most agree that nursing and vocational training are top priorities for NCTC. It appears they have 2/3 of the bond issue, on hand, maybe more. Do we taxpayers really want to take on more Debt and Taxes or should they use their reserves to pay for most of those improvements?

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