



[View](#) | [Subscribe](#)

[Home](#) [News](#) [Opinion](#) [Sports](#) [Photos](#) [People Etc.](#) [Obituaries](#) [Forum](#) [Classifieds](#) [Archives](#) [About Us](#)

E-Newsletter Sign Up!

[ess plan nearing vote ... 'We planted those' ... Ten have chance at new vel](#)



[Home](#) > [Opinion](#) > [Editorials](#)

Funding on backs of sinners

Published/Last Modified on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 2:07 PM CDT

[Print this story](#) [Post a Comment](#)

ShareThis

Sinners, hang on to your wallets because a coalition of nonprofits, unions and advocacy groups has set its sights on you to help plug a billion-dollar-plus hole in the state’s budget.

Putting the debt gap on the backs of smokers, drinkers and gamblers seems a bit unfair, but not exploring all possible areas to reduce the size of state government before any tax is considered would be more so.

Increasing the “sin taxes” seems an easy route. This time it comes from the coalition that calls itself Better Choices for A Better Louisiana. Should we make smokers pay more? Why not?

What about boozers? Sure, there’s nothing wrong with making beer cost more. And don’t forget about those evil gamblers. Those rascals should fork over more of their hard-thrown-away money so that state government can continue to keep the status quo. To heck with reforms.

Advertisement

Shocking Refinance Secret Exposed

Actually, sinners get a double whammy because the sin-tax hikes would raise only half of this coalition's target. The rest will come from a return to the Stelly tax hike that was repealed in 2008.

Now, I do not smoke. Nor do I play video poker or visit riverboat casinos. I do participate in the lottery on occasion. That's only when there's an office pool and I do not want to be the only one left should the winning ticket be purchased. I do imbibe on occasion but nothing regular.

I believe, however, it is unfair to keep going to the well for a small portion of the population, which in many cases involve people who are poor and addicted to many of these vices.

It is likely one of the arguments will be an increase of taxes will have a good effect in that more people may give up some of these unhealthy habits. If so, doesn't that undermine the original intent of taxing to raise money for government?

If there are other reforms the state government can enact, the Legislature should pursue that first. If there are ways to release dedicated funding to allow the cuts to be spread out more evenly, the Legislature should have the courage to do that.

Going to the sinner well first is unfair and eliminates a chance at reform.

JEFF ZERINGUE

MANAGING EDITOR

[Print this story](#) [Post a Comment](#)

ShareThis

Copyright © 2011 The Daily Iberian

Comments

WRITE A COMMENT

Use the form below to post a brief comment related to this story. Use the word count tool to assist you in keeping your remarks to 100 words or fewer.

- Comments must be approved by an editor or the publisher before appearing on the Web site but are not verified for accuracy nor have we verified the identity of any person supposedly posting an comment. Please consider this as you consider any statement made. A thoughtful contribution to the online discussion is appreciated.
- Please note your comments must attempt to follow basic rules of grammar and punctuation or they will not be posted. Do not use unfamiliar abbreviations or text-like short cuts, like ur for your. Please keep your tone civil. You can say someone's idea is stupid but you cannot say someone is stupid.
- Comments should deal with matters of public concern. Problems with private individuals or private companies are not likely to get posted.
- Questions or comments about items posted should be e-mailed to dailyiberian@cox.net.



If you owe less than \$729,000 on your mortgage, you probably qualify for the President's Making Home Affordable Program. This program gives Government support to homeowners who are looking to reduce their monthly mortgage payments. Find out what other shocking refinance secrets have been discovered.

Select Your Age:

[Calculate New House Payment](#)

LowerMyBills.com

Name:

Email: (optional)

Comments:

Current Word Count:

Image Verification: (Case sensitive) 



Classifieds

- [Place Your Ad](#)
- [View All Ads](#)

Jobs



[View Jobs](#)
-- [View Job Network](#)

Homes



[View All Homes](#)

Autos



[View All Autos](#)

Contact Us

[Subscribe](#)

[Vacation Hold](#)

[General Email](#)

Mailing Address:

The Daily Iberian
P.O. Box 9290
New Iberia, LA
70562-9290

Street Address:

926 East Main St.
New Iberia, LA 70560

Phone:

(337) 365-6773

Fax:

(337)-367-9640

Inside Louisiana:

800-365-6773

Local Weather



85°F
[forecast...](#)

Return To School With A Grant. See If You Qualify!

Click Your Age:

25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68

classesUSA™

©2011

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Sports](#) | [People](#) | [Etc.](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Forum](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Archives](#) | [About Us](#) | [Mobile](#) | [RSS](#)
[Submit News](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Refund Policy](#)

Copyright © 2011 Daily Iberian Newspaper | [Strategic Design](#) by drawbackwards