



Search bar with a 'Search' button.

Subscriber Services RSS

This Site Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

Home News Sports Business Opinions LA.com Lifestyle Contact Us Classifieds Jobs Autos Homes Obituaries Customer Care

Live Traffic: 405N 405S 605N 605S 710N 710S 91E 91W Weather: LONG BEACH, CA | Now: 65°F | High: 67°F | Low: 52°F | 5-Day Forecast

Download Podcast

del.icio.us Digg Reddit YahooMyWeb Google Facebook What's this?

Print Email

Circular politicking

Article Launched: 03/13/2008 08:12:21 PM PDT

Don't use voters' own money to try to fool them in an election campaign.

Voters are used to big-spending campaigns aimed at swaying their decisions at election time, but they shouldn't have their own money used against them. That's what seems to be happening on the issue of eminent domain.

John Campbell, the Republican congressman from Irvine, told the Orange County Register that the League of California Cities, the California Association of Counties and the California Redevelopment Association appear to be using tax money to try to defeat reform of eminent domain in the June election.

The groups oppose a ballot measure that would restrain government from seizing private property to redevelop it into projects that generate more tax revenue. Their goal is to confuse voters by supporting a similar but much weaker measure on the June ballot. If that weren't misleading enough, they are funding their campaign through a major-donor account designed to solicit private contributions.

The contributions are coming from the associations themselves, not directly but, they say, from such sources as seminars and advertising revenue in their magazines. But public money at least partly supports those sources. It's a convenient way to create a political slush fund that should be illegal if it isn't already.

The associations tend to see themselves as being on the side of the angels, and maybe much of the time they are. We're on their side most of the time.

But associations of government go too far when they start funding political campaigns.

Granted, cities and counties, like the state government, are scratching for revenue and they can make a good case for encouraging private development that helps ensure economic health. Redevelopment officials argue, for example, that much of Long Beach's remarkable economic resurgence after the recession of the 1990s was driven at least partly by the threat of eminent domain, if not the use of it, in assembling properties for favored developments.

But, as Rep. Campbell argues, cities and counties are desperate for more tax money partly because they have made promises to public employee unions of pay, pensions and other benefits that are richer than those enjoyed by nongovernment workers, and now there isn't enough money to pay for them. Rather than looking for revenue, they should trim spending.

Advertisement



Campbell calls the latest political efforts by government associations an incestuous circle. He has asked the California Fair Political Practices Commission to investigate, which is another circular action, but also the right thing to do.

You might call it a virtuous circle.

Most Views Most Comments

1. Whitey Littlefield: 'A man of love and devotion'
2. 1 killed, 1 wounded in Wilmington gun battle with police
3. 2 shooting suspects in court
4. SoCal killer dies awaiting execution
5. Long Beach man guilty of rapes
6. L.B. Airport goes green with energy-saving 'solar trees'
7. Long Beach men arrested in multi-city 'follow-home' robberies
8. Oregon's loss might prove costly Sunday
9. Arraignment postponed in Masonic shootings that left 2 dead
10. Gunman sought in Bellflower killing

More News

- Updated: March 14, 2008
- SoCal killer dies awaiting execution
- 1 killed, 1 wounded in Wilmington gun battle with police
- 2 shooting suspects in court
- Cleanup vehicles will avoid grunion areas
- Edwards named Cerritos mayor
- Whitey Littlefield: 'A man of love and devotion'
- Port union, shippers to begin talks on contract
- Are companies telling us 'little green lies'?
- Governor calls for swift talks on California's budget
- L.B. Airport goes green with energy-saving 'solar trees'
- Setting the Record Straight
- Community News Briefs
- L.B. Symphony Orchestra: Wait A Minute
- Tim Grobaty: St. Patrick's daze
- Bellflower to host cancer race

Click here

Get Mobile!

Sign up for Mobile Alerts today!

Press-Telegram

sponsored by

Print Email Return to Top

POST YOUR COMMENTS:
Read 1 comment »

Type in your comments to post to the forum

Name
(appears on your post)

Comments

Type the numbers you see in the image on the right:



Post Comment

Please note by clicking on "Post Comment" you acknowledge that you have read the [Terms of Service](#) and the comment you are posting is in compliance with such terms. **Be polite.** Inappropriate posts may be removed by the moderator. Send us your feedback.

<p>Free Credit Report with All 3 Scores</p> <p>Free 3-bureau Credit Report – includes Transunion, Equifax, FreeCreditReportsInstantly.com</p>	<p>Refinance and Save \$1,000S</p> <p>\$150,000 Mortgage for \$483/month. Compare up to 4 free www.pickamortgage.com</p>	<p>Fed Cuts Interest Rates Again</p> <p>Mortgage Rates Hit 26 Month Lows. Calculate Your New www.LowerMyBills.com</p>
--	---	--

Ads by Yahoo!

Copyright Notice | Privacy Policy | Information | Subscriber Services | Mobile Edition | Site Map | RSS | MY YAHOO! | REAL Cities | MNG Corporate Site Map

For more local Southern California News:
Select a newspaper...

Copyright ©2008
Los Angeles Newspaper group

Start Talking
Before They Start Drinking.

Ad Council
SAMHSA
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration