

9/23

Hello, this is Tom is Tom Cookman with a Community Comment

What does the future of Humboldt County look like? We've changed so much over the last several years that it is scary. The homeless population is the only thing that is prospering. Businesses and individuals are struggling to make ends meet and for some reason our government employees, both elected and hired, think that they can spend our hard earned dollars better than we can. The County of Humboldt is unable to balance their budget that exceeds three hundred million dollars. Humboldt County has 384 employees who are paid over \$100,000 per year, THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY FOUR. Instead of cutting back on these outrageous salaries, they want to raise taxes. We have a shortfall with the current budget of 2.7 million dollars. If the 384 overpaid employees took just a \$10,000 per year pay cut, we would not only balance our budget, but would have a million dollars surplus. My message to those who are trying to balance this budget with a proposed tax increase is to try this simple solution. Remember that the government employees who want you to pay more in taxes are the very employees who are making over \$100,000 per year. I don't begrudge the employees, it's the system that is flawed. They are scaring you by telling you that police and fire protection will be reduced to a level that is detrimental to the safety of our citizens. It already takes over twenty minutes for a police officer to get to the scene of a 911 call, so my solution is for each and everyone of us to make sure we have replacement cost fire insurance on our homes and to make sure we have a gun next to our beds. When a drug addict breaks into your house, exercise your Second Amendment right to have a firearm, shoot the intruder and then call 911 to either send an ambulance or if your shot is good, the coroner. Remember that every single time the government has received an increase in

cancer causing, ozone depleting smoke into the atmosphere. The global pollution has dramatically increased and we no longer have those high paying jobs in Humboldt County. The reality is that businesses are not raking in huge profits in Humboldt County. They are doing everything they can to keep their doors open and people employed. If we pass a \$12 per hour minimum wage in the city of Eureka, we will lose hundreds of jobs. This isn't a scare tactic, this is a fact. Pacific Choice Seafoods cannot compete in their marketplace if the over 200 entry level jobs they have cost them \$12 per hour. They will truck their fish to Oregon and process it in a business friendly environment. Several local restaurants are going to move out of Eureka or close their doors permanently. This minimum wage increase is backed by the unions. Why? Because their contracts are tied to the minimum wage. The unions are selfish and greedy. They don't care that this proposal will devastate the economy in Eureka as long as they get paid more money. The unions are out-of-control. All you have to do to see what happens to an economy when the unions have too much power is to take a look at the city of Detroit. The rust belt was caused by the unions greed. Eighteen year old kids were being paid \$75 per hour to work in a manufacturing plant and they would've been ecstatic to work for \$25. Please, don't buy into the big lie that businesses can afford to pay entry level employees \$12 per hour. Vote NO on Measure R, or you will only have yourself to blame when businesses leave Eureka.

This has been Tom Cookman with a Community Comment