

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Vote NO on 5-190 and 5-191

Information will be showing up in the next few issues on measures and candidates for the November 4 election. We believe that it is our job to make information available in an easily understandable manner so that each voter can make their own informed decision as to how to vote. After all, who are we to tell anyone how to vote?

Okay, now for the exception. We believe that measures 5-190 and 5-191 on the Columbia County ballot are a bad attempt to fix a problem that is not fixable on the county level.

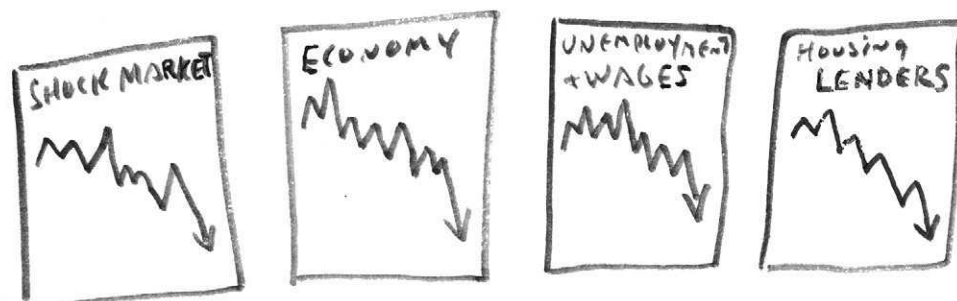
Measure 5-190 and 5-191 purport to be about immigration issues and hiring of illegal aliens for jobs in our county, perhaps taking away jobs from other residents. But, these measures are poorly written and will only cost you, us and the county money.

5-190 imposes a fine of up to \$10,000, adds suspension of licenses and building permits to any employer who knowingly or unknowingly hires an unauthorized alien. So, if somebody gives you documentation that looks good, but is found to be bad, you pay up to \$10,000 for not knowing. Plus, the county attorney must investigate. Our county is too small to do that. If the state and federal governments can't handle the issues surrounding illegal aliens how on earth would our county, with its shrinking budget and loss of timber dollars be able to do this? The answer is, they couldn't.

5-191 requires each construction site to have a 4 ft by 8 ft sheet of 3/4-inch plywood with phone numbers for the building department and the Sheriff's Office on it. Any time someone calls the numbers because they see someone who might look like a possible illegal alien, all work would have to stop at that site until the Sheriff's Office investigates. Well, everyone around these parts knows how long it takes to get a deputy sheriff out here for non-life-threatening problems. So, if someone is raising their home due to the flood and someone, for whatever reason (maybe just as a prank) calls the number, the work on your house stops until...well, who knows for how long.

Add to that the fact that similar measures in other states have wound up being contested in the courts and costing states millions of dollars, and you'll see why this is the wrong fix for immigration issues. Times are tough enough without putting this extra burden on our economy. Vote "NO" on 5-190 and 5-191.

WHERE'D MY PENSION GO? CAN I RETIRE?
WHERE'S MY SAVINGS?
How About My Job and Security?



THE FUTURE OF THE FUTURE

DOES GUV MINT HAVE THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE?

WHERE'S MY SUGAR DADDY?

WHY DO THE C.E.O.'S STILL GET THEIR MILLIONS!?



Out of My Mind...

by Noni Andersen

Sarah Palin, the Republican candidate for vice-president, complains about the scrutiny she is getting from the media. Her complaint should be directed at John McCain because he's the one who (with her consent) put her in the cross hairs.

Consider the same scenario with different players: If McCain had selected a governor from Wyoming, say, or North Dakota, a man just 20 months into his first term whose political/governmental background included nothing more than being mayor and council member for a town of 7500, media scrutiny would be just as intense. It was McCain who chose to put a nationally unknown person in line for the presidency of the United States, and the media would be grossly negligent if they did not seek more information.

In spite of complaints to the contrary, the media is still doing an inadequate job of reporting on McCain. Many voters are unaware that McCain:

- Missed 64% of Senate votes in this session, more than any other senator (Barack Obama missed 45.7%).

- Actively opposed the new GI Bill of Rights, extending the time between deployments, and missed all 10 votes this year regarding benefits for active military and veterans.

- Graduated from Annapolis 854th in a class of 859 graduates.

- Has never held an executive position.
- Has never worked in a non-government job.
- Was liaison to the Senate for the U.S. Navy (essentially a lobbyist) before he was elected to

Congress.

- Was elected to Congress in 1983 and has been in Washington ever since.

- Has kept top officials and fund-raisers in his campaign who have past (and some present) financial ties to many domestic and foreign trouble spots, (including Fannie Mae, Blackwater, Ahmad Chalabi and the government of Georgia), in spite of his announced "no lobbyists" policy.

- Says he supports increased mileage standards, but has repeatedly voted against them.

- On June 13, 2008, was "very angry" at the oil companies for their "obscene profits" and "failure to invest in alternate energy"; on June 16 reversed his long-held opposition to offshore drilling; on June 17 had a closed-door luncheon in San Antonio with oil company executives and left with campaign donations of \$1.3 million.

- Voted against tax credits for development of renewable energy.

Voters really don't know enough about the disconnect between McCain's rhetoric and his votes, and know even less about Palin. The media needs to research and investigate. If elected, McCain will become the oldest president in our history. His choice for vice-president should be questioned because we need to know a great deal more about his potential successor.

McCain is an impulsive risk-taker who loves to gamble at the crap tables in Las Vegas; he can afford it. The important question is: Can we taxpayers afford to continue the policies that have created record deficits, foreclosures and, shamefully, military and veterans' suicides?