



The Nevada Policy Research Institute

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New NPRI report exposes government waste

A new report that chronicles some of the most egregious cases of wasteful spending by Nevada's state, county and local governments was released today by the Nevada Policy Research Institute.

Titled "The Nevada Piglet Book 2008," the report was authored by Louis Dezseran, an NPRI researcher, and Steven Miller, the Institute's vice president for policy. The national taxpayer watchdog organization Citizens Against Government Waste partnered with NPRI on the production of the report. It can be downloaded at http://npri.org/docLib/20080923_Nevada_Piglet_Book_2008.pdf.

"In this time of economic challenge, Nevadans deserve to know whether government is managing taxpayers' money responsibly," said NPRI President Sharon Rossie. "This report's findings make it clear that in many cases, elected officials have neglected their fiduciary duty toward the Silver State's taxpaying citizens."

Examples of dubious financial practices exposed in the report include: the underreporting of both spending and revenues; exorbitant overtime pay to public employees; imprudently lavish retirement benefits; school district projects with extreme cost-overruns; circumvention of contract-bidding rules; unconscionable amounts spent by governments to lobby other levels of government; and costly expenditures on items such as cat carriers and leashes, sand-filled stress balls, fuzzy frogs, 100-pound pigs and "A Notable Evening of Romance."

"This is a crucial step in bringing transparency to Nevada government," said David Williams, vice president for policy at Citizens Against Government Waste. "Before Nevadans are asked for one more tax dollar, Nevada must get its fiscal house in order."

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