



purpose governments, not taxing, bonding and purchasing authority outside the control of the municipality or county.

Normal Jersey has tolerated "one day governments" for years. There are just too many people involved in too many governmental and quasi-governmental bodies and stumbling on too many opportunities to make a quick dollar. To be sure, most people are involved as concerned citizens willing to take on extra duties as public service.

But the amount of money involved in land deals, purchasing contracts and outright payoffs is too large to accept.

Of equal concern is that most New Jersey Republicans are in jail for crimes. It is time to change the way we govern ourselves. Below are ideas to be explored that require hard - sometimes unpopular - choices and radical thinking.

1. Increase the boundaries of what we define as the area for home rule by merging towns, townships, villages and some cities. The decision to merge should be made by the voters.

2. Decrease 605 school districts to 21 county districts with uniform management. Within the rural, suburban and urban needs can be addressed.

3. Many special interest groups are not allowed to be heard at the polls as you vote.

4. Make New Jersey's legislators full time with full-time work and unable to accept outside employment and honoraria. This reduces both the appearance and the reality of conflicts. They already receive the benefits of full-time employees, so this is a salary adjustment only. While it may increase their income, it will reduce the appearance of conflicts and damage their reputation.

5. And these ideas only represent cutting corruption. There are many other opportunities for cost-cutting in government and vitality in our economy and communities.

6. Government corruption not only eats away at the public's confidence in our officials, it also damages the democratic process we live by.