

THE BUFFALO NEWS

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Region has too many government employees

12/8/2006

I applaud Kevin Gaughan's expose regarding the direct cost of local elected officials. Certainly we could probably do without a good number of them. It seems to be his opinion that the success or demise of our region is dependent mainly on politicians' direct benefits.

In my opinion, the real problem is due to the overwhelming number of government employees, including politicians, and services to which we seem to have a birth right to demand. After all, even with all the elected officials, the annual cost figures out to be only \$34 per person. I doubt that anyone would be making a big deal about this if we were doing well as a region. No, it is the narrow mind-set of these many politicians, who are dependent on heavy subsidies from the unions, both government and private.

Also, the vast number of government employees makes for a critical mass that is in direct opposition to private industry and the taxpayers and those who are not dependent on government pensions. Basically, there is only one money pie to go around, and the government is getting more than its fair share of it. That's why many of our young people are moving out. The sooner we face up to this reality, the sooner we will be able to turn this area around.

Richard Speth

Buffalo