

Critical issues



Local and Government Affiliation: Summary of the article The state and federal government have been having a conflict of duties and responsibilities especially when it comes to issues of finances and delivery of services. The article explains how the two have come up with a sorting out method which will put to an end the dispute of the services. The sorting out process is however not an easy affair and may take longer than expected.

Once the sorting out procedure is carried out and determination of the two issues under debate is done, legislation has to be drawn stipulating the amount of money or the extent of delivery the government will provide and for how long. This sorting out procedure will require following of five stipulated principles some of which include provision of funds to states with lowest capacity to raise their own revenue, consider the effects of fiscal responsibility and provision of clear separation of responsibility between the state and local government (Foundation Fiscal Partners, 1999).

Discuss points of controversy that you were not aware of in the state/federal government situation

I was not aware that there is controversy of finances. I always assumed each state received its funding of basic projects such as education and health from the federal government and then they dealt exclusively with the delivery of the services. I also had no idea of the fact that these duties and responsibilities even though they intertwine have separation through the constitution. Smith, Greenblatt and Mariani, (2007) sheds more light by use of the constitution of the roles which should be performed by the two in regards to finances. The tenth amendment for example explains that the state carries out the most mandates in regards to the running of the state and federal government only comes in when it is mandated by the

constitution.

Themes in your writing

The main themes include the relationship between state and federal government and how the tenth amendment and the commerce act and even the constitution itself have tried to differentiate the duties and responsibility to no avail. There is also separation of duties of the state and local government which are slightly intertwined. The other theme discussed in the reading by Smith, Greenblatt and Mariani, (2007) is the division of labor in the state and the roles of some of the people such as governor. This also leads to the theme about the responsibilities that the state has towards the towns and counties.

What would someone say about your own political leanings from your work on the comprehensive assignment?

The controversy between the powers and laws of federal and state government have left me opting for the federal government to leave the states to run their own affairs as best as they can without interference from the federal government unless the governor of the state formally asks for the assistance of the federal government. This political leaning on my side is brought about by the culmination of the various readings and discussions with several examples put forward of the controversies and how they have not only brought confusion to the judges and other authorities responsible but also to the victims and perpetrators as well. An example is of the gun free act by the federal government and the gun control act of the Texas state which seemingly clash and hence leading to delayed justice (Legal Information Institute, 2013).

References

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Foundation Fiscal Partners (January 28th, 1999). *Critical Issues in State-Local Fiscal Policy, Part 1: Sorting out State and Local Responsibilities*. Retrieved from: <http://senate.legis.state.la.us/acir/Topics/2002/Responsibilities/foundation.htm>