

Quid Est Veritas

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to Mississippi." Old Paris, however, was fearful his opponent Ellen Sauerbrey would one-up him in the tax cut department, and since that time Maryland has struggled to get out of the red.

O'Malley, unlike his predecessor, took the adult approach to the problem and rather than doing things like tripling the tuition at our state universities decided to raise taxes in a fair and prudent manner to close the budget gap.

Listening to some of the Governor's detractors one would think he was asking for people's first-born child. The facts are quite different. According to figures released by the Maryland Department of Legislative Services, most Marylanders will see their state taxes rise by \$83 to \$244 next year. Most families making less than \$150,000 a year will see their state and local income taxes go down \$111 to \$172 a year, due to increases in the personal exemption for

most taxpayers and higher earned income credits. A family making \$40,000 a year will see a net increase of \$7 in state taxes; a family with \$75,000 in household income will see taxes rise \$83; a family making \$150,000 will see taxes go up \$244; and a family with a \$750,000 income will see its taxes increased by \$2,659.

Let's get real folks, relatively speaking these are miniscule amounts. If you don't have an extra seven bucks to ensure our state can adequately fund, education, health care, and transportation projects, I feel sorry for you.

The most important point is that O'Malley, rather than telling us what we wanted to hear, took substantive action to address a genuine problem.

What many of our political leaders fail to realize is that good government costs money. None of us would ever go into the Severna Park Giant, fill up our cart and walk out without paying for the items we selected. There is an

implied agreement, namely that we are entitled to keep what we agree to pay for.

In the area of entitlements we have been on a shopping spree, but playing dumb when it comes time to pay the tab. I am not a huge fan of Hillary Clinton, but she is right when she says "we are borrowing money from the Chinese to pay for Saudi oil."

This cannot continue... We must find a way to pay our bills.

This year is an election year, whatever your political bent please be smart enough to avoid giving your support to anyone who tells you they can cut your taxes and maintain education and the social safety net. Remember, there truly is no Santa Claus.

For once, vote for someone who is mature enough and smart enough to not only cut spending but to prudently and appropriately raise taxes. It is only through doing both that we will be able to maintain a productive and just society for generations to come.