



The media's job is to
interest the public in
the public interest.
- John Dewey



Donate

Help fund this story!



[\(/pitches/1065-tax-dodging-in-florida-offshoring-property-purchases\)](#)

**Tax Dodging in
Florida - Offshoring**

Property Purchases

[\(/pitches/1065-tax-dodging-in-florida-offshoring-property-](#)

OFFICES

Boulder Office

3980 Broadway Suite 103 Box 139
Boulder, CO 80304
Phone: 303.448.9105
Toll free: 888.891.9416
Fax: 208.247.1830

STAFF LIST

Lark Corbeil
Managing Editor
Contact

David Crandall
Business Manager
Contact

Susan Green
Development Director
Contact

Mary Hulsebus
Executive Administrator
Contact

Deb Courson
Editor
Contact

Skip Wood
Editor
Contact

Home » November 2011

Search Help

Missing the Perfect Chance to Build Schools in West Virginia?

November 7, 2011

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Friday, Democrats in the U.S. Senate failed to break a Republican filibuster of a White House job-creation proposal that would have invested \$60 billion in fixing crumbling bridges, dams and schools. People who price public works projects say low construction and interest costs mean lawmakers may have missed a once-in-a-generation chance to get a good deal on things West Virginia and other states need.

Dave Sneed administers construction plans at the West Virginia School Building Authority. He says to keep working in a slack time, contractors are cutting their bids to levels last seen five years ago.

"Some income is better than no income. A lot of the contractors are still hungry. They're probably willing to take work with maybe even a lower profit margin, just to keep their people busy."

Sneed says lower current costs meant the total price of a new school in the Eastern Panhandle was less than a Morgantown school built a few years ago on the same design.

"It's practically the same school, basically the same materials, the same square footage. And it came in four years later, cheaper. It actually came in \$9 million under budget."

According to the *West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy*, the state has thousands of unemployed construction workers, and putting them back to work would create more than twice the economic benefit of the initial cost. Ted Boettner, executive director of the *Center*, says taxpayers could save millions of

dollars on things they're going to have to pay for anyway by acting now when the market is right.

"Interest rates are below three percent, construction costs are down 20 percent. Now is the time to make these investments. We're not going to be in this position ever again, so we need to make these now, so future taxpayers will pay less."

Republican leaders in Congress oppose increased spending on roads, bridges and other infrastructure projects. Democrats question their motive, saying the GOP is worried that an improving economy would hurt Republicans in the next election.

Dan Heyman, Public News Service - WV

[Public News Service - WV](#)

[November 2011](#)

[Budget Policy & Priorities](#)

[Education](#)

[Livable Wages/Working Families](#)

[Youth Issues](#)

[Download audio](#)

[Print this article](#)

[Email This article](#)

Like

digg it

[Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [+](#)