

Six Apart -. Murano. Premium.Â .Search This Blog Subscribe to this blog Sign up for our newsletter Sacred Cows and Drinking Posts It is nice to see the Sacred Cow of campaign finance reform approach imminent reelection. This week, the Supreme Court heard arguments in *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*, questioning whether they are really independent, when they get a \$3.6 million gift from a billionaire looking to influence how they vote. But outside the court, I was still wondering about the wisdom of a tax on mere drinking. It's not a particularly complicated issue. If you drink, you're going to pay sales tax. If you don't drink, you get to keep your money. That's fairly simple. Except for one problem: if you don't drink, you're just as likely to be a Republican or a Democrat. Which gets you a \$2, \$3 or \$4 higher tax on your household. If you are a Democrat it might get you a new SUV. You might want to think about it. If you're a Republican, some of your country club buddies are likely to share this fact. Do the math. Republicans are going to drink more than Democrats, and Democrats are going to drink more than Republicans. As a former bartender, I can attest: two Republicans, one Democrat and a Democrat sometimes drinks will equal the amount of alcohol bought by a single Democrat drinking alone. And that doesn't even look at the way drinking builds 'round-robin theories of how to relate to each other: if you think the Republicans are drinking too much, then surely the Democrats are drinking too little. One of my friends lives in the suburbs of Chicago and is a real estate developer. I asked him for data on the behavior of his clients. He has found that Democrats and Republicans drink different amounts of alcohol. Democrats spend more of their money on alcohol. This means they are buying more alcohol overall, but not necessarily more than the other groups. How does this affect the tax argument? In terms of spending by political party, to keep taxes low for either party, for either drinking behaviors, means both share the burden equally. But the end result will be having to spend more money on taxes. Remember, Democrats and Republicans are more likely to drink more than the other parties. And alcohol uses like beer are an immediate taxable



