

Water The Impatiens

There's a lot to dislike about Biden's (so-called) loan forgiveness program. Here's a sampling.

- You paid off your college debt, didn't take on college debt, or went to a non-qualifying kind of school.
- You have, or have had, other debts equally (or more) difficult to repay.
- A bad precedent has been set. Students will be encouraged to take on even more college debt. Colleges will be encouraged to raise their tuition further.
- This program adds to the federal debt.
- Adding to the debt, this program will drive high inflation even higher.
- This is a bailout for rich kids, or at least for students who can expect much higher lifetime earnings than many other people.
- I shouldn't be required to pay other people's voluntarily contracted debts.

Given enough time, I could probably add to this list.

Of course, these dislikes have gone up against arguments from the other side. Student loan forgiveness is "life-changing." It will "boost the economy." It will "close wealth gaps" and "promote educational justice." Given enough time, I could probably add to this list too.

Approaching the issue this way—arguing one side against the other—reminds me of a story I heard long ago that has always stuck with me. Around my home I like to plant impatiens. But one year a neighbor comes over, digs them up, and plants petunias instead. Naturally, a dispute occurs. But if I'm not careful, we end up arguing the relative merits of impatiens versus petunias. Of course, the real issue is one of principle.

The property is mine. I make the decisions about what happens on my property.

So it is with student loan forgiveness. To argue the issue on a foundation of its relative merits and faults is entirely useless. Student loan forgiveness by executive order is not constitutional on its face.**

"What Constitutional power does Biden have to take John Q. Public's money and pay Jane Q. Public's school loans? Why not her mortgage? Why not her car loan? How did the college-educated caste become the lucky ones? When and how does this stop? This nonsense not only defies the US Constitution – it defies common sense! And, if President Biden is doing this under the auspices of the federal government, what redress does John Q. Public have other than to take the fight to the federal judiciary?" - Rich Heidel

That's the principle upon which the argument should rest. It's. Just. That. Simple. It's why we have a constitution in the first place. In plain words, our Constitution specifies the three branches of our national government, defines their roles, and describes what they are permitted to do. Student loan forgiveness by presidential order doesn't even come close to qualifying under our constitution.

It's a nice day. I think I'll go outside to water my impatiens.

Scott Liddicoat , BCTA member

**** Only congress may appropriate money. The president may only recommend appropriations for congressional consideration. From *The Constitution of the United States*:**

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7: No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of [congressional] Appropriations made by Law...

Article 2, Section 3, He [the president] shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient...

September Meeting Notes

For the November 8th election, the Green Bay Area Public School District will have a referendum question asking voters to consider a \$92.6 million referendum to address delayed and deferred facility and safety projects for the District.

Several members of the Green Bay Area Public School District leadership team were present to discuss their perspectives on referendum projects:

Dr. Judy Wiegand, Interim Deputy Superintendent

Josh Patchak, Chief Operations Officer

Angie Roble, Chief Financial Officer

Sara Noah, Executive Director of Finance

James Lyerly, Board of Education Member

Because the District has paid off the 2017 referendum, it is able to borrow without increasing the mill rate. In fact, the District will be able to borrow \$92.6 million AND lower the mill rate to \$8.24, the lowest mill rate since 1984. The current mill rate is \$9.03.

The District has paid off the 2017 referendum, allowing the District to borrow without increasing the mill rate. In fact, the District will be able to borrow \$92.6 million AND lower the mill rate to \$8.24, the lowest mill rate since 1984. The current mill rate is \$9.03. (The mill rate is the cost per one thousand dollars of property value.)

The referendum addresses delayed and deferred facility and safety projects. These projects include:

- ✓ Roof replacements at East, Southwest, Franklin, Washington, and West
- ✓ Window replacements at Edison and Sullivan



September BCTA Meeting

- ✓ HVAC replacements (60+ year old boilers) at Howe and Sullivan
- ✓ Bike & Walk Safety Plan signage to improve traffic safety around all schools
- ✓ LED lighting for energy efficiency
- ✓ Emergency generators
- ✓ Stormwater system replacement at East to address flooding
- ✓ New fire alarm system at East

For a full list of projects, visit WWW.gbaps.org/referendum2022

Andrew Zuelke, candidate for Wisconsin State Treasurer under the Constitution Party banner, explained that he is running to defend elected accountability, a fundamental principle of the Constitution Party.

Dave Nelson, Secretary

Monthly Meetings @ The Village Grille

Monthly meetings are held at **The Village Grille, corner of Hoffman and East River Drive**, Allouez. The location has no stairs or steps, convenient parking, and a room to better accommodate speakers and conversation. There will be three selections from which to choose lunch - each one will be priced at \$12 (including tip.) Lunch is at 12:00 noon with monthly speakers presenting.

SUPPORT THE BCTA

New Members Welcome

www.BCTaxpayers.Org

The Brown County Taxpayers Association is a local group working to bring information and awareness to issues that affect tax policy or impose regulatory burdens.

October Meeting Notes

Green Bay Police Chief Speaks

Chris Davis, Chief of the Green Bay Police Department since September, 2021, spoke about the mission of the Green Bay Police Department and issues it faces as it works to carry out its mission.

Chief Davis comes to us with 28 years of police experience. He began his policing career at the Arizona State University Police Department in 1994. In 1998, he joined the Portland, Oregon Police Bureau, where he served in a variety of roles including the Assistant Chief of Services, Assistant Chief of Operations, and Deputy Chief of Police. He is experienced in virtually every component of policing.

Chief Davis earned a Bachelor's Degree in Justice Studies and a Master's Degree in Public Safety Leadership and Administration from Arizona State University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Major Cities Chiefs Association's Police Executive Leadership Institute.

The mission of the Green Bay Police Department is providing service through a partnership with the community that builds trust, reduces crime, creates a safe environment, and enhances the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

He explained that to fulfill this mission, it is critical to do two things. First, we must be fully engaged with the community we serve. Public safety is a shared responsibility, and we in the police service are effective only when we are responsive to the public's needs and are legitimate in the way we do our work. We set high standards and hold each other accountable to those standards.

Second, we must invest in the well-being and professional development of our people. This means continual education and training; we are always learning and looking for better ways to do things. It

also means caring for the physical and mental well-being of all our employees, both sworn officers and professional staff.

The Green Bay community strongly supports its Police Department. This is a testament to the dedication and professionalism our members show every day as they go about their work.

I know that you all have an interest in gun violence. I have some good news and I have some bad news about gun violence in the city of Green Bay. The good news is that it could be a lot worse. Almost every city of any size in the United States has seen an escalation of gun violence since 2020. But on the good news side of the equation, our increase has been a lot less than a lot of other cities. And the other good news is that we have some really good assets to work with here, and we are in a better position to deal with it in Green Bay than some other cities like Milwaukee or Chicago. The problem is still manageable in our community. It is out of control in other larger cities.

We are seeing a lot more criminals using semi-automatic rifles than we ever saw before. In my days when I worked the streets, I never saw shootings involving rifles, it was all handguns. In addition, the average number of rounds fired in a shooting incident has more than doubled.

About half of our gun violence in public spaces is from about three dozen people that are responsible for the vast majority of that activity. That gives us some clues as to folks that we can focus our efforts on and places we can focus our efforts to try to deal with this problem.

Fentanyl is a significant issue. A big thing to keep in mind about Fentanyl is that it's not just by itself, but we are finding it in literally every illegal drug that is trafficked in the city. So that's really upping the risk.

Dave Nelson, Secretary

The TAX TIMES

Brown County Taxpayers Association
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Meeting Location

The Village Grille, Allouez

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

Thursday - Nov 17, 2022 BCTA Monthly Meeting.
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez
Joy Goeben - Wis Representative

Thursday - Dec 15, 2022 BCTA Monthly Meeting.
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez
Todd Delain - BC Sheriff

BCTA monthly meetings are held the Third Thursday of each month, 12:00 Noon, at , at The Village Grille, Allouez.

Meetings are open to the public. BCTA Members, their guests and other interested parties are cordially invited to attend and participate in our open discussions.

**COST: \$12.00, Payable at meeting. Includes lunch, tax & tip.
Call Tom Sladek – 499-7701 for information or to leave message.**

Nov - Dec 2022



Thank You
VETERANS

www.BCTAxpayers.Org
