

The Costs of Education

Rick Bowers

As September of 2024 rolls around, I'm forced to think about all the schools opening for yet another school year. I'm also forced to think about the amount of tax money that is about to be expended again. On the TV news I hear and see that the UW system schools are now planning for the first tuition increase in 11 years. Wow....11 years of frozen tuition. Does that mean that the teachers and school administrators have had a frozen salary for the past 11 years? Have the building and grounds maintenance costs been frozen for 11 years? If not, who has had to pay for all those increases? Of course, it is the Wisconsin taxpayers and not the students who are attending those schools.

As I see all those students starting to pour into the elementary, middle and high school schools, I wonder if our county's schools can possibly score above 37% of their students reading at or above a proficient level. I worry about the remaining 63% that score at or below a basic level. For all that money that has been expended training teachers in our UW system shouldn't they be better able to teach their students how to read? For all the money that has been expended paying our teachers in Brown County, shouldn't they be able to achieve better results when teaching their students how to read?

Just recently, the Marquette University Law School came out with a new poll. They found that 7% of Wisconsin voters were "very satisfied" with the public schools in their community, down from 12% last year. 39% were "satisfied" this year, down from the previous year's 51%. These satisfaction numbers were the lowest ever (by 13 percentage points) in the past 16 Marquette University Law School Polls.

Another very interesting finding in this poll is that of those Wisconsinites that identify as Democrats,

74% said that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their community's public schools. Of those that identify as Republican, 37% said that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their community's public schools. I find this data very interesting and rather disturbing.

I wanted to discover just how much money my wife and I've parted with in the past 50 years of paying Wisconsin income taxes and property taxes. Almost 50% of our property taxes go to the local school district. Also, almost 50% of our Wisconsin income taxes go to support schools. It is a rather rough estimate, however it comes out to over \$180,000. This too is very disturbing. As our reading results continue to suffer, we continue to hear about the declining mental health of our youth. It shouldn't be surprising that when our children continue to fail to learn to read proficiently, all they learn is that they are stupid, and life is hopeless.

Rick

1:00pm Meeting Start Time

**We have changed the start time
of our monthly meeting.**

**Third Thursday of Month
Village Grill
Hoffman Rd, Allouez**

June Meeting Notes

Guest Speaker: David Steffen & Andre Jacque

Today's first speaker was David Steffen, 4th Assembly District Representative, running for re-election. He has been a longtime member of our group. His major focus in the Assembly is taxes & spending. Since taking office in 2015, he has been associated with bills that have reduced taxation by \$15B and stated our national ranking of tax burden has gone from 6th to 19th. He has been focused on education, fraud waste & abuse in entitlement programs, and the Reins Act, which provides public input and legislative control over administrative rule spending over \$10M. He also provided copies of a summary of his legislative results and positions. He is currently working on a flat tax rate and reduced taxation of retirement accounts to protect seniors from periods of high inflation. He also responded to questions dealing with line-item veto power to re-write legislation, outside influence in elections, and election integrity.

The second speaker was State Senator Andre Jacque, running for Congress. He describes himself as an independent thinker, shown to vote against his party if he feels the outcome was not in the best interest of taxpayers. His focus in Congress, would be the border, homeland security, and uncontrolled spending. His WI successes include tort reform, administrative spending controls, and legislative oversight of federal funds given to WI. He is a pro-life candidate. He responded to questions concerning abortion and election integrity.

Business items: Vice President Liddicoat reported requests continue to come in for the voting guides. Treasurer Sladek updated the group on our plans for a candidate forum with those running in the 90th Assembly and 30th Senate Districts. It is projected to be a single forum with all four candidates on September 17 at the Central Library. The forum will include initial questions sent to all candidates prior to the forum as well as

questions from the audience. Next month's speaker is Congressional candidate Roger Roth. September speaker is Bellevue Village Clerk, Michelle Seidl.

Committee/other reports: At the state level, President Schwalbach reported about financial issues in the Milwaukee Public Schools and a number of resignations, the Voss recall effort, and ballot pick up restrictions. Director Parins reported about door to door efforts to inform homeowners about energy saving funds available through ARPA. Secretary Goldhahn shared the current information about proposed consolidation of schools, and that any solution would likely include the building of a new school.

Meeting Notes by Rod Goldhahn, Secretary

2024 General Election

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

The City of Green Bay sends out their absentee ballots on Sept 19.

Early Voting dates vary between municipalities. Several clerks have posted early voting schedules. Contact your local clerk for dates and times.

Early Voting

City of Green Bay	Tue, Oct 22 to Nov 3
City of De Pere	Tue, Oct 22 - Fri, Nov 1
Village of Allouez	Tue, Oct 22 - Fri, Nov 1
Village of Hobart	Tue, Oct 22 - Fri, Nov 1
Village of Suamico	Tue, Oct 22 - Fri, Nov 1

Information obtained from Municipal websites, subject to change. Contact your local clerk for dates and times.

July Meeting Notes

Guest Speaker: Roger Roth, 8th District Candidate

Today's speaker was former State Senator Roger Roth, candidate for the 8th Congressional District. Candidate Roth has been a homebuilder for 25 years, served in the Air National Guard, and served two terms in the WI Senate. He and his wife reside in Appleton with their 5 sons. As he has traveled the 8 counties within the district, the main issues he hears are border security, the economy, and the decline of the military. He recently visited the southern border where he spoke with border agents and saw some of the issues firsthand. He compared the fentanyl crisis deaths with those of 9/11 and reminded us how this nation responded to 9/11. He spoke of how inflation and the lack of a plan is hurting WI families. The candidate also shared concern about how we are perceived by our enemies given the decline of the military. In responding to questions from the audience, he clarified that there will be two elections, one to fill former Congressman Gallagher's remaining term, and one for the next term. His initial focus if elected would work with his colleagues on budgets and spending. He favors the elimination of the Dept of Education and returning that power to the states. He has been endorsed by former Governor Scott Walker.

Business items: Treasurer Tom Sladek reported that distribution of the voting guides was progressing well with placement in all branches of the BC Library. He also noted that plans for a Candidate Forum in September were being finalized. President Schwalbach reported that our meeting time would change

from noon to 1:00pm, beginning with the September meeting. Our August speaker will be a representative from WILL (WI Institute for Law & Liberty).

Committee/other reports: President Schwalbach reported that the State Elections Commission was holding a hearing concerning emergency rules for election observers. There are a number of other rules being considered concerning elections. WI Supreme Court also ruled the Governor had the authority to distribute funds allocated in the approved budget, irrespective of legislative attempts to block spending.

Secretary Goldhahn noted the Green Bay School District was planning a \$183 million referendum on the November ballot with \$33M going to Safety & Security, with the rest going to consolidation projects. Director Bowers attended a session dealing with what a future high school graduate would look like. He noted the initial cut lacked any notation of scholastic performance. Fortunately, many others noticed the same thing and it was addressed.

Secretary Goldhahn also informed the group about a joint effort between the Green Bay Metro Fire Department, Brown County, and local healthcare providers to begin an mobile integrated health group within the Fire Department to more effectively and economically address recurring health concerns within the community.

Meeting Notes by Rod Goldhahn, 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 **\$15 (includes tax and tip)**. Lunch is at 1:00 pm with monthly speakers presenting.

SUPPORT THE BCTA

New Members Welcome

www.BCTaxpayers.com

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.

The TAX TIMES

Brown County Taxpayers Association
P. O. Box 684
Green Bay, WI 54305-0684

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Jun Meeting Notes

Jul Meeting Notes

Meeting Location

The Village Grille, Allouez

1:00 pm Meeting
Time Change

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

Thursday - Sept 19, 2024 BCTA Monthly Meeting.
1:00pm at The Village Grille, Allouez
Michelle Seidl, Bellevue Finance Director/Clerk

Thursday - Oct 17, 2024 BCTA Monthly Meeting.
1:00pm at The Village Grille, Allouez
Patrick McIlheran , Badger Institute

Tuesday - Nov 5, 2024 Presidential Election - Vote

BCTA monthly meetings are held the Third Thursday of each month, 1:00 pm, 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: \$15.00, Payable at meeting. Includes lunch, tax & tip.
Call Tom Sladek – 499-7701 for information or to leave message.

Sept-Oct 2024

2024 General Election

Tuesday, Nov 5, 2024



www.BCTAxpayers.com
