



## The Supreme Notion.

Are you ready for four more years of Barack Almighty? If Mitt Romney doesn't close his deal, that's what we're looking at. Mitt, God bless him, is facing a national-first icon – our first Black president – and he's done an exemplary job showing that he is a starkly different candidate from Obama. But he must demonstrate that he is the BETTER candidate. Picking Paul Ryan showed he understands our need for fiscal discipline – not a Double-Down Derby comprising QE Infinity, Son of Son of Stimulus-In-Law and TWARP [Troubled Washington Actors Relief Program.]

Imagine another 4 years of Obamanomics. Does it really matter? Are presidents really THAT influential for the economy? Maybe not. But ...Let me just scare you for a second. Ready? Justice Eric Holder. Justice Janet Reno. Justice Lynn Adelman. Justice Shirley Abrahamson. Justice Janet Napolitano. Shall I continue? Justice Hillary Clinton? Justice Nancy Pelosi?

Our Supreme Court is growing long in the tooth. Ginsberg, Kennedy, Scalia, Breyer – all born in the 30s. Our next president could replace them all. It may be that we already know who our next POTUS is when you read this, but this issue has received little ink during the race to the top, top of the dung heap or the next hill? Issues such as the "first sale doctrine" the basis of unfettered ownership by the purchaser alone could topple the Constitutional principle, "the pursuit of happiness," originally penned as the pursuit of property until T.J. was arm twisted for more flowery language. Tom Jefferson relented and possibly started the ever increasing slippery slope greased amply by the feely, touchy Liberals approach to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Property.

Start thinking about the coming decisions tabled until post election, the DOMA-Defense of Marriage issue, various voting rights issues, Voter ID rings a bell. But no matter the lack of ink devoted to the Supremes, their likely replacements has missed an important topic that will follow the Nation long after Barack Obama, and Mitt Romney have grown old and the effects of this coming change on the Big Bench has sown the seeds of the future should we survive the economic precipice the Nation teeters upon.

I only hope no one who reads this newsletter threw away their vote by staying home, an act I find unfathomable. From the time of this writing it appears Wisconsin will have a major role in the election, and I will say unapologetically, God bless and save the United States of America, preserving the treasure of ideas upon which the Liberty of the Individual resides.

**Did You VOTE?**

*Richard Parins* — President

**The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION**  
*In our 27th Year of Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government.*

## Help The BCTA By Serving on a Committee.

One of the things which has kept the Brown County Taxpayers Association alive and active is our committees. We have five permanent committees each responsible for a specific area of taxpayer interest.

Ideally committees consist of 6-10 or more members who meet aside from our regular monthly meeting to discuss various items of concern, and develop a position which the entire organization can endorse and publicize if appropriate. Members may be asked to attend public meetings, and even speak on behalf of the organization if possible.

The five committees are as follows:

The County/Municipal Committee examines issues to Brown County and Green Bay City government, plus issues of interest in the various cities, villages and towns ;within the county if appropriate.

The State/Federal Committee focuses on pertinent issues emerging from Madison and Washington through contact and correspondence with our elected officials.

The Schools Committee examines local school district issues.

The Communications Committee, in addition to the Tax Times, aims at examining alternative, effective ways of communicating with the membership and the public. Press releases are issued when necessary to publicize our stand on various issues.

The Membership/Development Committee is responsible for organizational growth and development.

Participation in any of these committees gives you a chance to express your thoughts and input as part of an established and respected organization. Through the years we have had excellent relationships with our elected officials, and have had positive input on many issues effecting the taxes we all pay. We realize that taxes are necessary to provide the services we all expect and enjoy, Our motto is, "Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government." Let us know Thank you for your interest and support.

"During a political campaign everyone is concerned with what a candidate will do on this or that question if he is elected except the candidate; he's too busy wondering what he'll do if he isn't elected." . . . Everett Dirksen  
  
"You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time." . . . Abraham Lincoln (Atr.)

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
**www.BCTAxpayers.Org**  
**Email, BCTA@ExecPc.Com**

## Freedom of Choice.

**School Choice** Conservatives believe in school choice because they believe that parents and students should get to decide how their kids are educated, not the teachers unions.

Last session, we expanded the open enrollment period so parents could weigh their options and decide which school is the best fit for their children. As a result, more online charter schools are popping up around the state and more applications were filed this year to change schools than ever before.

Chalk one up for the Conservatives. For those who oppose school choice: If you have a good product, what are you afraid of?

**Property Rights.** Before conservatives were swept into office in 2010, people who owned property near water weren't allowed to repair or renovate their homes if they were a certain distance from the water, basically dooming these structures to eventually fall into disrepair. If you want to let your house fall apart, that's your call, but the government shouldn't tell you that you can't fix your own house.

That is why Representative Tom Tiffany and I introduced and passed SB 472, which lets homeowners choose whether or not they want to make improvements on their house, not the DNR. People don't understand that private property rights are fundamental to our free society. Lefties are always chipping away at that through Government control. We restored some of those property rights that make this country great.

**Taxes and Spending.** We use the government for some basic services, like roads, police, firefighters, making sure contracts are enforced, and we know those programs have to be paid for. That doesn't mean we can't get the best possible deal for our taxpayers. Republicans took a \$3.6 billion dollar deficit and turned it into a surplus. The democrats created this deficit while raising taxes \$5 billion when they were in control. (and people say there's no difference between republics and dems) On top of that republicans, put \$109 million dollars in the state's rainy day fund, the largest deposit in the history of the state, not by raising taxes like the democrats did. While Act 10 limited collective bargaining privileges, it opened up a lot of choices for taxpayers and school boards. Now local governments can shop around for health insurance plans and choose the one that gives their employees quality coverage without breaking the bank. As a result, schools can hire more teachers and in some cases reduce class sizes. And despite the liberal warnings, the sky hasn't fallen. In fact, most schools in the state met or exceeded the expectations created by the Department of Public Instruction.

The increase in choices doesn't just go to the school board, it goes to the taxpayers too. For the first time since 1999, property taxes in our state have gone down. This was possible because Act 10 saved the state over \$1 BILLION dollars.

Reducing taxes means that there is more money in your pocket, and you're free to use it as you wish. The sad thing is, Democrats opposed each and every one of these reforms. So let's set the records straight, liberals don't want you to be able to choose where you send your kids to school, how you spend your money, how to fix your house, or whose yard sign you may have on your property.

Last session Republicans focused on giving people more choices, and this upcoming session we'll focus on giving people more freedom of choice. As we continue to improve our economy, people will have a choice where they work and as we work to simplify our tax code, people will have more freedom to spend their money as they see fit.

Being free means making your own choices.

State Senator Frank Lasee

## National Debt Update. *Who pays the most in Federal Income Taxes?*

As of the first of November, the official U. S. National Debt will have reached about \$16, 230,000,000. That's \$16.23 Trillion dollars, or an increase of about \$230 Billion since we last reported on Sep. 1. It is rising at the rate of about \$3.5 Billion per day which is a little than previous but that could be contributed to the cost of jet fuel for the Presidents 747s as he crisscrosses the country on his re-election campaign.

Watching the National Debt clock on the internet is very similar to watching a three ring circus. There is too much going on at the same time to see it all. Further, the subject seems to have been pushed aside by the President, both as the result of his administration to control federal spending to date, and his plans for the future if re-elected. Any plans he has disclosed so far only call for a diminutive reduction over an extended period of time based on the assumption that growth of the debt will be curtailed and that no new spending programs are initiated in the meantime. This is ridiculous conjecture and is unlikely to happen. Any solution must include a serious reduction in spending.

How much do you and I owe? Right now the debt is \$51,531 for each U.S. citizen, and \$141,485 for each taxpayer. In addition, the total debt total for the state and local governments is about the same, and then you can add personal and mortgage debt of individuals which adds up to another \$15 or \$16 Trillion.

But, like the slick huckster on TV says, "*But that's not all.*" There are some unfunded liabilities, so called because the money has not yet been set aside, but which will come due in the future based on present population demographics and trends. The totals for Social Security, prescription drugs and Medicare adds another \$121 to lthe debt list, and makes the total per taxpayer \$1,057,776. Do you want to pay this all at once or use the installment plan? Don't plan on mortgaging your property as all the personal property in the country is only worth \$87 trillion.

Outside of fact that no one seems to care, what is the significance of this? For one thing the value of the dollar is down compared to other currencies, meaning we pay more for what we spend in foreign countries. Money can be printed but has less value if not backed by gold reserves. There is little incentive for individuals to save money if there is no return on investment. A good part of our National Debt is held in foreign banks.

Most importantly, the higher our debt goes, the greater amount of financial resources goes for interest payments. Anyone else living on credit cards and making monthly payments knows that all you do is keep sliding deeper in debt unless you stop spending and concentrate on paying,

### Who pays the most in taxes?

Despite the fact that our government is forced to borrow about thirty-five cents for every dollar we spend, there are still a number of well-meaning politicians out there who maintain we should spend even more to maintain government programs. The National Debt is a concern, but the problem will go away by itself, so don't worry about it.

Also, it has been a popular idea calling for higher taxes on the rich "*who don't pay their fair share.*" We assume they also mean movie stars, athletes and other personalities as well as those who own and manage businesses employing others. The answer to this would probably be a complete examination and overhaul of the Federal Tax Code. It ranges in size from 2,000 to 60,000 pages depending on who you talk to. Most of it consists of special clauses and exemptions placed by Congress for various interests resulting in tax benefits to help this or that group. Many are outdated and should be revised or removed, but that never happens in Congress.

The chart below shows which income group pays the most taxes. Even if the top 5%, or those earning over \$154,000 were taxed at 50% it wouldn't help that much. **Jim Frink—BCTA**

## Who pays the most in Federal Income Taxes?

	Number of Returns with Positive AGI	AGI (\$ millions)	Income Taxes Paid (\$ millions)	Group's Share of Total AGI	Group's Share of Income Taxes	Income Split Point	Average Tax Rate
All Taxpayers	137,982,203	\$7,825,389	\$865,863	100.0%	100.0%	-	11.06%
Top 1%	1,379,822	\$1,324,572	\$318,043	16.9%	36.7%	\$343,927.00	24.01%
1-5%	5,519,288	\$1,157,918	\$189,864	14.8%	22.0%		16.40%
Top 5%	6,899,110	\$2,482,490	\$507,907	31.7%	58.7%	\$154,643.00	20.46%
5-10%	6,899,110	\$897,241	\$102,249	11.5%	11.8%		11.40%
Top 10%	13,798,220	\$3,379,731	\$610,156	43.2%	70.5%	\$112,124.00	18.05%
10-25%	20,697,331	\$1,770,140	\$145,747	22.6%	17.0%		8.23%
Top 25%	34,495,551	\$5,149,871	\$755,903	65.8%	87.3%	\$66,193.00	14.68%
25-50%	34,495,551	\$1,620,303	\$90,449	20.7%	11.0%		5.58%
Top 50%	68,991,102	\$6,770,174	\$846,352	86.5%	97.7%	> \$32,396	12.50%
Bottom 50%	68,991,102	\$1,055,215	\$19,511	13.5%	2.3%	< \$32,396	1.85%

Source: The Tax Foundation from Internal Revenue Service.

## October Meeting Notes.

Monthly Brown County Taxpayers Association Meeting held October 18, 2012 at Titletown Brewing Co,

Luke Hilgeman, Wisconsin State Director for Americans for Prosperity (AFP), discussed AFP's mission and issues it is addressing. AFP is a nonpartisan organization devoted to educating Americans about economic policy and stimulating them to participate in government issues. It organizes grassroots leaders that encourage citizens to promote limited government and free markets at the federal, state, and local levels. AFP's Wisconsin membership has increased from 75,000 to 125,000.

To encourage the development and growth of businesses, new and existing, AFP members work to instill public policies that promote fiscal and regulatory restraint, and support the principles of entrepreneurship. AFP focuses on:

Cutting taxes and government spending to halt the encroachment of government by opposing tax increases and pointing out evidence of waste, fraud, and abuse.

Removing unnecessary barriers to entrepreneurship and opportunity by sparking citizen involvement early in the regulatory process in order to reduce red tape.

Restoring fairness to our judicial system.

Mr. Hilgeman expressed concern about the possible outcome of the November elections, noting that the viability of America is at risk.

The BCTA Schools Committee expressed their continuing concerns about the \$33 million Pulaski School District referendum scheduled for November 6. They oppose the referendum as they believe the \$5 million athletics complex, and the \$7.4 million swimming pool should not be included in the \$33 million referendum and should be addressed on their own merits in a separate referendum. Another concern is including computers and technology equipment with limited service lives in a 20 year financing package.

The tax rate increase from the referendum is estimated to be in the range of 10 percent.

The next BCTA meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2012. Details on the last page of this TAX TIMES.

**Dave Nelson - Secretary**

"I do not think I could myself, be brought to support a man for office, whom I knew to be an open enemy of, and scoff at religion. . . . **Abraham Lincoln**

"We the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the courts, not to overthrow the Constitution but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution."  
. . . **Abraham Lincoln**

Articles and views appearing in the "TAX TIMES" do not necessarily represent the official position of the Brown County Taxpayers Association. We want to encourage discussion and input on current issues of taxpayer interest and invite your comments or articles suitable for future "TAX TIMES." Please send them to the BCTA, P.O. Box 684, Green Bay, WI 54305-0684, or call Jim Frink at 336-6410.

## The Chicago Way.

Our neighbors to the south, the City of Chicago and its adjacent suburbs have a population about equal to the entire state of Wisconsin, while occupy an area just a little larger than Brown County. It's a wonderful and vibrant place to shop, visit museums, wine and dine, be entertained, or change planes.

It also has a somewhat unique political structure going beyond the days when Al Capone and his troops were considered as heroes by many, and where everyone seems to know their place so that "nobody gets hurt." This is the city where Barack Obama spent much of his hazy political career while preparing for the White House, and from where many of his associates were recruited afterwards. Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Obama's former chief of staff, has taken up running the City of Chicago right where Richard M. Daley left off. He is the boss, but Karen Louis, president of the Chicago teachers union can't be far behind on the power ladder.

Despite Emanuel's blessings from Pres. Obama, the city's budget is \$300 Million in the hole and the city's pension fund is badly underfunded due largely to generous pension plans for city employees. The sales tax rate in the city is already up to 9.5%, and other revenue sources are limited. The crime rate is terrifying, with over 400 murders so far this year, a higher rate than the larger cities of New York or Los Angeles.

To add to their problems, in Sept. the city's 26,000 unionized school teachers, led by Union President Karen Lewis, went on strike closing the city's 600 schools and leaving 350,000 students with time on their hands. The school district is the second largest employer in Chicago, and no doubt the city itself is the largest.

Chicago teachers already had the shortest work day of any major school district in the nation and an average annual salary of \$76,000 along with a lavish benefit system. Among other items on their list, they demanded a 30% pay increase and an end to the proposal that evaluation tests measuring their performance as teachers be installed. (*Test results have shown 79% of Chicago 8th graders unable to read proficiently.*) How bad are their schools? A 2004 survey disclosed that 40% of Chicago's teachers were sending their own children to private schools.

While possibly some of their issues should have been resolved prior to the start of their school year, and others should have been resolved years ago, going on strike in September created the demand for a prompt and amiable settlement, and Mayor Emanuel took personal responsibility for negotiations.

The strike finally ended Oct. 25, after a court order putting the teachers back to work and pending Union approval of a 17.6% pay hike over 4 years and pension account enhancements among other considerations. While Mayor Emanuel took all the credit, he also promised "No tax hikes" in the city as a result. This promise may turn out to be a problem as the wage increases alone could cost taxpayers \$295 million over the first three years.

Other problems facing the city are Chicago's municipal employees 4 major pension funds (*including the teachers*) currently have an unfunded liability of \$14.7 Billion, or \$5,473 per resident. In addition, the Public Schools System also has an additional \$1 billion deficit from past budgets so the Mayor may have to do some creative homework to keep his promise about no new taxes.

While the teachers of Chicago maintain their interest is in improving the education standards of the city which we do not question, the result of the settlement may be even larger class sizes, less maintenance and replacement of aging facilities and less money spent on new equipment and technology necessary to compete with other cities.

While we acknowledge that teachers in Wisconsin have sacrificed some of their own benefits recently, and that the pay and some of the benefits in Chicago may be greater where would you go if you had a choice?

**Jim Frink—BCTA**

## Things That Make Us Wonder.

When you receive this issue of the *Tax Times*, the 2012 Presidential campaign along with all of the important state and national elections should be history. We will also find how accurate all of the polls prior to the election predicting the outcome actually were.

We have commented previously questioning the motives behind publicizing these polls. Basically, are they intended solely to see which way the wind is blowing or could they be intended to influence potential voters as a publicity tool?

We cannot question the methodology that is used, but we question how a poll of 600 Wisconsin residents by a Milwaukee pollster determined who Wisconsin voters would choose for President and by what margin. There are about 4,200,000 residents of Wisconsin 18 and over who would be eligible to vote if they would just bother to register. This would equate to one out of every 7,000 people being polled.

Can you imagine taking all of the adults of voting age in the state being assigned to groups of 7,000 each, and then picking one person at random from each group whose vote would count for the entire group? You get the idea.

This brings to mind the 1947 classic movie *"Magic Town"* in which Jimmy Stewart played a struggling pollster who found a small town with residents with characteristics and demographics which closely matched the entire country as a whole.

He moved in and things went well for a while as he submitted poll after poll with predictions that turned out to be remarkably accurate.

However, after a while the townspeople found out how they were being used, and began to submit false and often ridiculous answers to his questions.

Eventually things got straightened out, the townspeople got back to thinking for themselves, and the heroine, played by Jane Wyman and Stewart fell in love and we assume lived happily ever after.

After all, this was just a movie and not something endorsing a problem we would be stuck with for four more years.

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The USPS has announced a one cent increase in the price of a first class stamp effective January of 2013. They

wanted five cents, claiming that employee pensions were becoming a burden.

The Postal Service blames Congress for their problems. We wonder if all the money spent in recent months by groups trying to raise money to re-elect Congressmen and women has anything to do with their hands off attitude?

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The federal government recently released the results of a study claiming that 30% of Americans were considered to be overweight to the extent of being called obese. Despite the efforts of Michelle Obama urging us to eat more fresh veggies and Mayor Bloomberg's war on sugary soft drinks the study predicted the total would reach 50% by 2030.

Perhaps the best thing the government could do would be to encourage everyone buy a full length mirror and an accurate scale so they could see for themselves how they appear to others.

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Our dictionary describes a *"Ponzi Scheme"*, as an investment swindle in which some early investors are paid with money put up by later ones to encourage later ones in order to encourage more and bigger risks.

When Social Security was established in the 1930's, the concept for providing retirement and disability benefits probably made economic sense. As presented, it provided retirement benefits filling a need for working people as the great depression was winding down. It would be financed by contributions from workers, employers, and the government. What could possibly go wrong?

Through the years, however, the addition of recipients not contributing to the plan, unprecedented inflation calling for increases in benefits, and the failure to provide funding to keep up with benefit payments does resemble a classic *"Ponzi Scheme"* whereby those who invest their money at the end lose it all,

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For many of us, it is still a matter of speculation as to whether the \$800B in *"stimulus spending"* to straighten out the economy that Pres. Obama authorized accomplished anything besides increasing the national debt substantially. We hear conflicting stories and wonder if anyone is keeping track of the results.

General Motors received 80 Bil-

lion in exchange for stock and we understand they have 11 new plants in China allowed for the sharing of technology by their government. Seventy percent of GM business comes from overseas operations, which may not necessarily be a bad thing but should we all pay to subsidize it?

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While increasing domestic coal and oil production may be a popular political idea, one problem is that it only diminishes our reserves and shortens the time before we may face a real energy crisis.

All alternative sources of energy should be evaluated and a crash research program initiated to find solutions. Solar panels and windmills may work for light bulbs but are not practical for powering automobiles, trucks, or airplanes.

One alternative has been electric powered cars, and with the government running GM they started production of the Chevy Volt. They were intended to sell for about \$40,000, but GM later found they cost about \$89,000 each to build. They offered a \$10,000 discount and still can't get anyone to buy the things. Somehow or other, GM claims they are making a profit even with help from the government.

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A large proportion of the everyday items sold in the U.S. are imported through domestic manufacturers who contend they are offering the same quality merchandise but holding down costs and retail price through cheaper production labor.

While this may be somewhat true, in many cases some of our leading and most respected retail brands have *"sold their souls"* by shipping their technology and even production machinery to other nations. Not all of whom are friendly to the U.S. We realize that world trade is important, but so is our own employment.

Some essential industries, for example the manufacture of nuts and bolts, and electronic appliances barely exist in this country and would be difficult to re-establish in an emergency.

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Americans are by nature compassionate towards those less fortunate and in general support government programs established to allow all citizens to enjoy the benefits our country has to offer.

This all comes at an expense. At present it is estimated there are 46 million

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Americans living in poverty. There are 126 federal programs which cost taxpayers \$668 Billion annually plus an estimated \$284 Billion from various state and local programs. Add all the money contributed to and donated by charitable organizations and the total is well over a trillion dollars a year.

If a trillion dollars were distributed equally to 46 million people they would each receive \$21,700, including dependents. Problem is there would probably still be 46 million people living in poverty.

While the best solution may be to create an economy providing more jobs to make the poor more self sufficient, this will not happen by itself. Any suggestions?

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The Green Bay Area School District will receive almost \$7 million more in state aids for the 2012-13 school year than the previous year. The total for state aids will be \$127.6 Million, or over half of the approved \$138 Million total budget. No doubt this is good news for the district as well as taxpayers.

The Dept. of Public Instruction released \$4.2 Billion to the 424 public school districts in the state based on a complex formula based on property values, enrollment, and annual expenditures of school districts. While most of the districts in Brown County also received aid increases it was reported that two-thirds of state districts had reductions this year.

While local property values per student may result for a reduction in state aids, it is not clear to what extent the operating costs per student have. Are more prudent districts rewarded or penalized? Also does the state formula offer the same assistance to districts with pressing capital needs to be addressed or those that spend more per student than comparable districts?

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When the concept of a "no-call" list was initiated, three major groups were exempted. First were concerns with whom you had a record of doing business, second was charities and religious groups, and the third was political organizations. Right now, after the past few months of constant political phone calls, I am sure that many of us would agree that providing this exemption to our privacy was a big mistake.

We all should agree that promoting the candidates who best represent our interests and that of the country is greatly important, most of us have access to sufficient

information to make a decision and realize the importance of casting our vote.

We also have received numerous requests for contributions and use our discretion accordingly.

It is unfortunate that key state elections cost millions and even over a billion for the President. Further many of us may be reluctant to make contributions which goes to sponsor negative advertising which they feel to be ineffective and even disgusting.

When a professional solicitor calls asking for political contributions it may be difficult to say no.

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Much of the negative advertising we have been exposed to recently made vague claims of what the cost of taxes or medical care would cost you if their opponent is elected. It almost seemed the candidates knew more about what their opponents plans for the country were than what their own plans might be. It is up to you as an intelligent voter to separate truth from fiction.

In all likelihood whoever is elected will have to come up with some creative ways to balance the budget and control the national debt. God help us.

One story making the rounds on the internet concerns HR-4646. The Debt Free America Act. This bill was actually introduced in Congress in 2010, and called for a 1% tax on bank transactions.

Sponsors of the bill claimed it could raise so much money it could eliminate the personal income tax as well as the national debt. The rumor is that this was being kept under wraps and would go into effect shortly after the election. It is our understanding that this bill died in committee and was never voted on.

Unfortunately unless our government learns to live better within its means some other plan just as menacing to the economy will come along and be enacted.

This regardless of who is President and what party is in power.

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The announcement that the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant would shut down next year along with the loss of 650 jobs came as a surprise and left a few questions to be answered.

First, it has been some time since we have seen any major power plant construction in this area, and is this an indica-

tion that we have sufficient electrical power available to meet our needs, even during peak times like hot summer days?

One reason given for closing the facility was that the price of natural gas had dropped to the point it was more economical to use than nuclear power. While this may be true today, what about tomorrow or 100 years from tomorrow? Are they saying it would be more cost effective to build a whole new gas powered plant and abandon what they already have?

We realize that the Nation's power grid enables energy producers to share resources based on supply and demand, but a question is how long will the supply equal our growing demands? If we can eliminate a fairly large producer of electricity such as the one at Kewaunee, is there any economical need whatsoever for a smaller facility like the gasification/incinerator plant recently proposed for Green Bay?

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One item that didn't seem to gather much attention in the Presidential debates or the negative/positive TV ads by either party was the subject of Obamacare.

There was plenty of speculative scare talk about how much it would cost "us" in taxes if the other was elected, but the President for some reason overlooked the opportunity to tout his namesake legislation. Is it possible he doesn't like it either?

Another item which seemed to be "hands off" was any questioning or discussion of details in the Presidents resume.

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Hopefully the November 6, elections were held without incident, and the winners will honor the faith and hope placed in them by the voters,

At last count, ten states, including Wisconsin were battling court cases over the requirement that a photo ID be presented in order to cast a ballot. Opponents to the laws have been using the courts as well as they can to strike down the requirement and in some states the rules are still not clear. The fact remains that voting is both a right and a privilege that should not be abused. A photo ID is required for many other daily transactions in our lives.

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Probably more sooner than later we will be compelled to start paying sales taxes to the vender on internet sales. The states complain they lose at least \$23 Billion in sales tax revenue, and local mer-

chant around the country claim they lose out on sales that would raise the \$23 Billion.

Most states, including Wisconsin, provide a place for you to voluntarily report sales tax on their income tax return forms, but they are for the most ignored. Unfortunately these laws are difficult to enforce.

One problem for internet retailers is that between the states, counties, cities, and special taxing districts there are literally thousands of tax rates and special exemption rules that apply to sort out. Only the very largest could afford to install a system to charge and report the correct sales tax for any customer in the country. Smaller companies that make sales over the internet would probably have trouble.

One solution offered would be to have the federal government be responsible for collecting a uniform sales tax on all internet sales and somehow reimbursing all the taxing districts their share. This could be a worse case scenario.

In the meantime, we read that Amazon has started construction of several million square foot warehouses around the country in anticipation of being able to provide better service in addition to their competitive pricing while still charging sales tax.

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The Green Bay City Council recently voted to cancel the provision that all city workers reside within the city limits. Although well intended to encourage employees to support their community, the growth of suburbs in many areas have made these laws difficult to enforce, and discourage the hiring of qualified employees.

Department heads will still be required to reside within the city limits and responsible for making sure employees report for work on time regardless of residence.

It probably doesn't make much difference as no doubt employees from other municipalities might reside in Green Bay.

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Attorney General Eric Holder has sent a letter to major hospital associations warning them of falsifying records submitted for Medicare reimbursement. It seems they came to the conclusion that some claims appear to be excessive. While this likely has been going on since day one, it is hard to place blame on the medical providers.

Since Medicare only pays a fraction of the submitted claim, and the cost to providers in paperwork to work with Medicare and insurance companies is excessive and

often takes several months for payment it could be expected.

Hospital and doctor bills for the simplest procedures can fill several pages of items and services making them difficult to understand let alone audit.

It would make sense to me that rather than impose a 2,000 page "affordable health care" plan on the country the experts should first come up with a plan to simplify and reduce the cost of medical services, including mandatory paperwork and record keeping.

Then come up with a way to make services available to everyone if they want. Unfortunately "Obamacare" by design seems deliberately intended to work the other way around.

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While teaching school might not be the highest paying job in the world, one can always apply for a job at WEAC, the Wisconsin teachers union.

Public IRS filings for 2009-10 showed their payroll at \$15,314,533, or an average of \$104,180.63 for each of their 147 employees. Of course they don't all make that much, but some make more. The executive director made \$264,058 and six other key employees each made over \$200,000 in wages and benefits.

By comparison, Gov. Scott Walkers salary is listed at \$144,423.

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Whether or not this story is true we do not know, but we do know that the idea isn't new.

We read that Florida has become the first state to require welfare applicants to take a drug test—at their expense. If they pass, they are reimbursed. If not, they must undergo treatment or remain ineligible for a year. If they fail a second time, they remain ineligible for three years.

This might even work in Wisconsin. How much do tattoos cost?

\* \* \* \* \*

The Social Security Administration reported in July a total of 8,753,935 workers were receiving disability payments. This benefit was added by Congress to the Social Security system in 1956, and no doubt has something to do with the financial stability of the fund.

We have no problem with the government helping those unable to

work, but couldn't this come from a different source than that set aside by workers planning for their retirement? Watch TV and you will note qualifying people for disability is a lucrative business for a lot of personal injury law firms.

\* \* \* \* \*

One of the tenets of successful if not necessary ethical politics is to accuse your opponent of the same things you are guilty of yourself at election time.

These include having raised taxes or thinking of raising taxes, ignoring the "middle" class, veterans, schools, workers, race, or any other voting constituency. Accepting contributions from or association with unpopular groups, or just plain being successful or rich also are on the list.

Unfortunately the exact source of many of these ads is difficult to determine. The bottom line is to know in your own mind what your candidate stands for, what his voting record actually is, and what he or she will do for you and the rest of the country if elected or re-elected.

As usual, lots of things to wonder about.

Jim Frink

*"Things That Make Us Wonder," consists of taxpayer related thoughts that occur to us from daily news events. We use reliable, published information and statistics. Some items are unimportant and probably not worth commenting about while others could easily be expanded to full length feature articles worthy of future study and action to protect our interests as taxpayers. We try to cover a wide variety of subjects in limited space and perhaps put a different spin on items from what you read in the papers or see on TV. We acknowledge that our perspective on some items in this column may be contrary to some of our readers. However, one of our purposes is to encourage debate, as we realize there are two sides to every question. Comments or suggestions are welcome for inclusion in future "TAX TIMES."*

"The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the US Government cannot pay it's own bills. It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance our Government's reckless fiscal policies. - - - - America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better!"

. . Senator Barock H. Obama  
March, 2006

# The TAX TIME\$

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## Inside This Issue.

The Supreme Notion.

Help The BCTA—Serve on a Committee,  
Freedom of Choice.

National Debt Update.

*Who pays the most in Federal Income Taxes?*

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Things That Make Us Wonder.

And more,

## The TAX TIME\$ - November, 2012

### BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

Tuesday - November 6, 2012. Presidential Election Day.  
DID YOU VOTE ?

Thursday - November 15, 2012. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon.  
Titledown Brewing Co. BCTA Annual meeting.  
Discussion of Election results and implications.

Thursday - November 22, 2012. Let us give thanks.

Thursday—December 20, 2012. BCTA Monthly Meeting.

**Public officials and candidates for public office are cordially invited to attend any of our meetings and be recognized.**

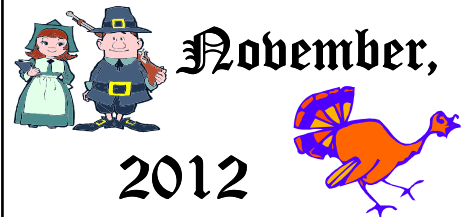
Unless otherwise notified, BCTA monthly meetings are held the Third Thursday of each month, 12:00 Noon, at Titledown Brewing Co., 200 Dousman St.

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: \$8.00, Payable at meeting. Includes lunch, tax & tip.

Call Tom Sladek – 499-7701 for information or to leave message.



“A billion here, a couple of million there ,  
and pretty soon you’re talking about real  
money.” . . . Everett Dirksen

“The American public will endure until the  
day Congress discovers that it can bribe  
the public with the public’s money.”  
. . . Alexis deTocqueville

### **SUPPORT THE BCTA**

**New Members are Always  
Welcome. Call 499-7701  
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