



Defining Down the Definition.

Okay, let's get some things straight. First and foremost, the true, unabridged meaning of words often slung around in political discussion like entrails tossed about in the slaughter house. Where did accurate thinking and the correct definition of words fall off the meat wagon. Call me a haughty wordsmith, academic juvenile, or all around smart-ass, but I grew up when English class meant the accurate structure and use of words as defined by the accepted forms of usage; like a modern day McGuffey Primer. I also respect the BCTA organizational value and definition of "non-partisan," because fiscal conservative values should be accepted by all political factions.

So let's begin with some of my "fave raves," or more aptly described as the stuff I hear and read that simply bakes my cookies and fries the bacon. First I will preface these comments with the idea/ideal of historically nominal usage. When we speak of Constitutional and Democratic ideals I am first and gladly constrained by our original American writers, constructors and definers of "American Exceptionalism," our historically unique idea for the structure of governance often referred to as the American Experiment.

Let's start with the word "republican" (small r) to which the framing founders used to create a structure of governance distinct between the Greco definition of democracy and the American representative format, a separate and important distinction. The concept of "republican" refers to the practical concept of power in the federal government conferred by the assent of the governed through a union of autonomous, distinct "states."

Ours is NOT a pure democracy, but a republican, small "r", form of government, empowered through the consent of free citizens; for were we to operate as a "pure democracy" our Nation would simply be one vote from anarchy. When that concept was first sprung on me by a Constitutional scholar, the bell went off like the opening clangs of Wall street, and my path was set, my call to serve. Our governance only functions through the collaborative process of the three branches of our Constitutional Republic.

Wow, does the educational system and Fifth Estate impart this notion in a clear succinct manner? I seriously doubt these institutions neither understand nor currently teach the distinction. An appraisal for the general state of our educational systems and press/media sorely lacks independence of thought and frankly isn't serving the community. As a matter of fact, I can't say my K-12 Education qualified for pre-college credits, but man, by 8th grade and after the Presidential race of Kennedy-Nixon, I had a basic understanding of our government and the basic electoral system, because I was taught it!

I have no cure to return civic responsibility to our youth, short we make every effort to fight "Common Core" and the Public K-12 school system in general, both of which fall terribly short to independently and accurately educate their charges. I suspect a few students may surprise and make us proud, however, the larger group of cultural illiterates we graduate will disappoint and worse, as we, the society disappoints their potential!

It's no small wonder why small "r" republican fiscal conservatives rarely get elected since more can be about our constitutional government on Duck Dynasty than can be learned in our schools and in the free and independent press. So, here's the test- the USA lives in a pure democracy or a constitutional republic? Yes or No. Next, what are the three branches of this constitutional government? ____: ____: _____. How did you score or more importantly, how does our Republic score?

Richard Parins - President

The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

In our 29th Year of Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government.

Obamanizing the American Dream.

Despite all the hoopla and initiatives by the Obama administration to jumpstart the economy during the past few years, unemployment is still stagnated above the 6% mark. It has been reported that better than one out of every five households in the country have depended on unemployment benefits and/or food stamps. Unfortunately the governments' own figures establish many people seem to have given up seeking employment in lieu of government subsidies.

We realize that if there are no jobs available, finding work can be impossible under any circumstances, but is that really the problem? Are we turning more towards becoming a welfare nation dependent upon government subsidies paid by one group of people to support the other? This may depend on how one interprets the numbers. It is easy to blame previous administrations for our problems but it is always what actions the current administration takes that corrects mistakes of the past and sets the course for the future.

Does what was once referred to as the "American Dream" still exist, or are we even allowing it to exist? While the "American Dream," can mean different things to different people, it essentially is an idea that suggests that any individual in the US can succeed through their own efforts with the potential to lead a happy successful life. Also the ability to lead a better life than the previous generation which is often given as the goal of most immigrants to this country.

While many critics claim such goals are impossible in these days due to racial, religious, gender, political or national origin differences, we see constant examples in our daily lives that absolutely anyone can succeed in life if they set and follow their goals. Perhaps the biggest obstacle is government itself.

We could agree that an appropriate level of government control is necessary to maintain harmony with 320 millions people sharing one single nation. The question may well be where does government control end and individual freedom begin?

In recent years our federal government has taken upon itself to regulate just about every facet of our lives. From cleaning up the air we breath to the food we eat. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimates that Federal agencies crank out about 4,000 new regulations each year. Often without a mandate for immediate action or concern what the cost or any other impact will be.

While we realize that much of this is probably for the better, it never ends. We are paying for thousands of people in Washington with nothing to do but dream up, write, and enforce lengthy regulations that in many ways defy common sense and understanding. Unfortunately many regulations benefit one party at the expense of another. You can blame partisan politics for that. Whatever the bureaucrats in Washington fail to dream up to make our lives more confusing our state governments will.

All this said, we came to the purpose of this article, and present three case scenarios.

First, private industry, particularly small business is the glue that keeps our economy strong, despite what President Obama said to the contrary a while back taking credit for the government being responsible. Virtually all business, large and small was started in some point in time by entrepreneurs who took the risk of investing their savings to provide employment for others, provide needed goods or services, and hopefully make a profit for the benefit of his family and business operation.

Next, an employee of a successful growing business who wants to make the most of his career and life, provide for his family, and perhaps start his own business some day.

Finally a person with his/her first job, or who is working part time at the minimum wage and wants to move up.

How would recent laws such as the Affordable Care Act (ACA), or proposals by President Obama exercising his executive authority effect the economy in general? We already know that the ACA, otherwise referred to as Obamacare, is already turning out to be a disaster. It's cost and economic effect on business hasn't really hit home as yet, but is destined to raise the cost of most everything we buy. The Congressional Budget Office estimates a net loss of two and a half million jobs as a result if the law being implemented. Simply put, we don't need more inflation, loss of jobs, or disruption of our medical system.

Next, it is the obligation of all employers to compensate their employees in such a manner that they are paid adequately and fairly for their efforts, and also to contribute to the success and integrity of the company for which they work. Employees are free to negotiate or seek other employment as an alternative.

The government seems to have a "one size fits all" mentality. Rather than acknowledging employees in different occupations, employers, requiring countless skill levels be treated according to the needs and resources of the employer, they should also be subject to government wage controls. These go beyond existing mandates covering working conditions, job safety, child labor laws and discrimination. We are referring to the minimum wage, and enforcement of existing overtime pay rules.

Do we really need a law to establish a minimum wage? We realize you can't support a family on \$7.25 an hour, but it's ideal for students, and extra spending money. The question is would \$10,10 an hour be enough to support a family or would the person raised to that amount finally realize that a little extra training which is available most anyplace or a good look at their work habits and appearance might be helpful. If nobody applied for the \$7.25 job the price would likely go up there also. A good paying job is a privilege, but not necessarily a right for anyone.

A job paying a straight salary for job performance and responsibility rather than an hourly wage is often considered a step up on the employment ladder. You are usually assigned a specific area of responsibility but the hours to be worked may be more or less than hourly employees earning overtime. President Obama recently decided that many salaried workers should also receive overtime, which could also be considered an intrusion into private business as it is giving government more authority over what should well be a management/employee problem.

In conclusion, while our healthcare system has many flaws which could be corrected, the Affordable Care Act is far too complex, expensive, and disruptive to be effective. Raising the minimum wage may be helpful to some, but would cause more inflation and not accomplish the goal of putting more people to work. Enforcing overtime rules should be a matter for individual employers to negotiate with their employees, and is just another government intrusion for small businesses to contend with. Rules to encourage rather than discourage private business development should be a top priority of government.

Government should practice what they preach. Our military doesn't receive overtime pay either.

Jim Frink - BCTA

March Meeting Notes. *Brown County Sales Tax and City of Green Bay Update.*

Monthly Brown County Taxpayers Association meeting held March 20, 2014 at Titledown Brewing Co.



Supervisor Erickson

Brown County Supervisor Bernie Erickson explained his opposition to enacting a Brown County sales tax when the 0.5 percent Stadium District Tax expires, most likely in 2015. He distributed documents showing that Wisconsin counties with sales taxes do not have lower property tax rates than counties that have not enacted sales taxes. His information is consistent with previous BCTA research findings that enacting county sales taxes does not provide long-term property tax relief.

Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmitt reported that the City of Green Bay's 2014 budget focused on paying down general levy debt, providing high quality services, and further reducing the tax rate. He highlighted some new programs and development activities. This January, automated garbage and recycling pickup project began, making for a cleaner, safer city, while saving money. It will be fully implemented by July, saving the City more than \$900,000 annually.

The City's street resurfacing program is proceeding and will continue to be a major focus in future years. The five-year street resurfacing and reconstruction plan includes more than miles of new roads.

The City is working with the County Executive to make the Research Technology Park concept a reality. The Research Technology Park can make Green Bay a leader in areas like food science. The Get Your Business Online City Challenge with Google is being launched. The potential impact of getting small businesses online is enormous.

The Green Bay Metropolitan Fire Department is becoming more efficient through the consolidation with the Village of Allouez Fire Department. Personnel from Allouez have been integrated into the ranks of the Green Bay Fire Department and are working as one cohesive unit. This project resulted in annual savings of \$500,000 through a reallocation of resources.

The Titledown Brewery Development will bring the expanded microbrewery and banquet space to the downtown. Phase two of this project will include residential units and office space.

The City staff accomplished the acquisition and transfer of title for the School for Academically Gifted Learners. This school will aid in educating the future leaders of our community.

Nearly five years ago, the Health Risk Assessment system was initiated and now City employees' scores are almost five points better than the national average in nearly every category.

The next BCTA meeting is scheduled for April 17, at Titledown Brewing Co. The scheduled speaker is Brown County executive Troy Strechenbach. Details on the back cover of this TAX TIMES.

Dave Nelson - Secretary



Mayor Schmitt

National Debt Update.

On April 1, 2014, the United States National Debt reached the total of **\$17,564,377,375,763.00**— That's Seventeen and a half trillion with a capital T. An increase of \$133.7 Billion during the month of March.

This number is not the amount of federal spending, but the excess of spending over income which has to be borrowed from somewhere or other.

It was reported that since 2012 the deficit has grown at the rate of \$2.73 Billion a day. March must have been a particularly bad month as my calculations showed an increase of \$4.45 Billion per day.

This may have been the result of some last minute advertising expense to convince more people to sign up for Obamacare before the end of the month, or travel expenses to the G7 Conference in Europe with a side trip to deliver some garden seeds to the Pope.

A more likely explanation though could be that for each day the deficit is not reduced, the interest on the unpaid interest keeps rising also, Something like a great big credit card from VISA.

Anyway. *Happy April Fools Day!*

JF

Plan on Attending Upcoming Meetings. *County Executive, Nationally known speaker scheduled.*

Our speaker for our next meeting scheduled for April 17, will be Brown County Troy Streckenbach. The April 1, election will be history with new faces on the County Board. Plan on attending.

We are fortunate to have scheduled Mr. Jim Tobin, founder and president of Taxpayers United of America, from Chicago as our speaker at our May meeting scheduled for May 15, at Titledown Brewing.

Mr. Tobin has appeared hundreds of times on ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC television, as well as having written articles for USA Today, The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune and Washington Post. We are sure you will find his message interesting and timely.

Mark down the date, May 15, and plan on attending. Details on the back page or this Tax Times.

Here are the 2,700 pages of the Affordable Care Act condensed into one sentence. "Obamacare: To insure the uninsured, we first make the insured uninsured, and then make them pay more to be insured again, so the original uninsured can be insured for free." . . . From the Internet

"When the people find that they can vote themselves money, that will herald the end of the republic. Sell not liberty to purchase power." . . . Benjamin Franklin

"I don't make jokes, I just watch government and report the facts." . . . Will Rogers

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
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Press Release

Brown County Taxpayers Association

March 27, 2014

For immediate release

Information: Tom Sladek (920) 499-7701

BCTA has tax opposition pledges from sixteen County Board candidates.

The Brown County Taxpayers Association today announced it has pledges from sufficient county board candidates to assure at least eleven board seats will be filled by sales tax opponents after the April 1st election,

“We know the county option sales tax does not provide property tax relief -- it only fuels government spending,” said Richard Parins, President of the BCTA. “We salute the candidates – sixteen of the thirty-three running – who have made this important commitment to voters.”

Parins continued: “Voters in districts 1, 3, and 10 can assure there will be no sales tax enacted for the next two years by choosing the candidate who has pledged to oppose the tax. We do not endorse candidates, but we do ask them to tell our members where they stand on important issues and communicate the results.”

Candidates were asked the yes/no question: “Will you oppose any attempt to enact a County Sales Tax?” Sixteen answered “yes”, and several others voiced opposition but either qualified that opposition, or would not declare in writing.

The full list of candidates showing those who pledged opposition to the tax follows.

.District	Candidate	Signed Pledge	District	Candidate	Signed Pledge
1	Tom Sieber	X	14	Pat LaViolette	X
	Jason Wisneski	Yes	15	Tom Katers	X
2	Tom Dewane	Yes		Carole Andrews	X
3	Sandra Duckett	X	16	Dave Kaster	Yes
	Andy Nicholson	Yes	17	John Van Dyck	X
4	Eric Hoyer	X	18	Allan S. Jamir	Yes
5	Staush Gruszynski	X	19	Dan Robinson	X
6	Daniel W. Haefs	X	20	Bill Clancy	X
7	Bernard Erickson	Yes		Jim Crawford	X
8	Guy Zima	Yes	21	Corrie Campbell	Yes
	James Warner	Yes	22	Patrick Moynihan	Yes
9	Patrick M. Evans	X	23	David Steffen	X
10	Julie Jansch	X	24	Richard Schadewald	Yes
	John Vanderleest	Yes		Ken Simons	Yes
11	Patrick J. Buckley	X	25	Tom Lund	Yes
12	David Landwehr	Yes	26	Steven Fewell	X
13	Norbert Dantine	Yes			

X = Did not respond or sign pledge.

Do We Actually Need A County Sales Tax?

The State of Wisconsin got into the sales tax business back in 1961, when the Legislature enacted a temporary, limited, 3% sales tax to solve a budget deficit problem. At one time the state maintained a balanced budget, but was starting to fall behind. It called temporary as the legislature realized it was not a popular idea, and limited because it only applied to specific items generally considered as luxury or discretionary such as boats, automobiles and trucks, recreational vehicles, sporting goods, household furniture and food served in restaurants. To ease the pain of compliance on vendors they allowed them to keep 2% of sales tax collections.

It was not long before our politicians in Madison found new ways to spend the extra revenue, and in the following years kept adding new items to the list of those taxed, such as clothing, electricity, fuel (except in the winter), and a number of services which had not been taxed previously. While there are still a few sacred items which are not taxed, such as legal fees, machinery used in manufacturing, farm equipment and medical supplies, it is still considered a general sales tax.

The tax rate was gradually raised from 3 to 5%, and the discount to vendors for administering the collection for the state was cut from 2.0 to .5% and the period for payment to the state was shortened in order to squeeze every last dollar into the state treasury and as soon as possible.

The 5.0% sales tax produced \$4.410 Billion for the State of Wisconsin in 2013, which equates to about \$770. per capita, rich or poor. It is the second largest source of income, behind individual income taxes.

Wisconsin has always had a reputation of sharing state income with local municipalities, school districts, etc. through formula systems basically intended to adjust economic, population density, and other demographic differences, and sales tax revenues also went for this purpose.

That said, in the early 1980's, various counties and other groups started proposing that the state segregate part of or split the sales tax revenue for local use, and the .5% county sales tax was authorized for those counties so approving. While the stated purpose was property tax relief, it has gone for many purposes. Oddly enough, with little public input or consideration, Brown County was the first county to approve the tax. After outrage from business interests and the public, the tax was rescinded with the Legislature amending the law to allow such action, and we have survived very well without. The Packer Stadium District Tax is a different item entirely, and is supposed to end sometime in the near future.

So far, 62 Wisconsin counties have opted to impose the county sales tax. Possibly for competitive reasons, the main exceptions have been counties with well established retail districts, or for other reasons not wanting to add new taxes. Whether or not the Brown County Stadium Tax has made a difference is speculation, but Outagamie County always at least seems to have more attractive and vibrant shopping. It takes \$200 Million in retail sales to realize one realize in tax, so a loss of \$1 Million in retail sales due to the tax can hurt business, but only cut tax revenue by \$5,000.

Does a county sales tax reduce property taxes? That depends on a lot of factors, largely on well the county is managed and their spending habits. There may be room for argument but most of us will believe that Brown County has been very well managed in recent years, provided an excellent level of infrastructure and services, and kept our property taxes at an acceptable level.

For example, of the 62 Wisconsin Counties which have the .5% tax, 46 of them presently have a higher county property tax rate than Brown County. In addition, the per capita county sales tax paid in the counties with the tax averages \$74.21, which technically can be added to your property tax bill.

A study conducted by the Brown County Taxpayers Association several years ago definitely concluded that a county sales tax did not increase the property tax burden, but in fact only resulted in additional spending. The additional revenue only encouraged more spending not of necessity but of convenience. Any property relief was offset by the addition to residents of the sales tax, and in many cases the property tax assessment was back to where it was within a short period of time.

We can acknowledge that there are capitol needs on the counties want list to be addressed. Plans for library renovation seem to be on hold. The District Attorney reports they are understaffed leaving a huge backlog of criminal cases to prepare and prosecute. So far the county administration has been able to resolve one issue at a time allowing for budgeting.

Another argument for proponents is that visitors will pay some of tax for us. This may be true in Door and other tourist oriented counties where the summer population doubles with vacationers and summer homes. Brown County has its share of tourists, who spend a few dollars but we live here all the time and prefer to spend most of our money here rather than travel to Appleton to buy merchandise.

In short, a county sales tax for Brown County at this point in time with many people living in poverty is a terrible idea worthy of no serious consideration whatsoever.

Jim Frink - BCTA

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. E-Mail BCTA@ExecPC.Com.

"A liberal is someone who feels a great debt to his fellow man, which debt he proposes to pay off with your money. . . . G. Gordon Liddy

"The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings. The inherent blessing of socialism is the equal sharing of misery. " . . . Winston Churchill

Things That Make Us Wonder.

It would be interesting just to see what would happen if Presidents Obama and Putin where to change jobs for a week or two,

Putin would have a great time flying about our country in Air Force One, while Obama likely would find more things to promise the people of Russia than even he could imagine.

* * * * *

One good thing to come out of the extremely cold weather we experienced this winter.

The *Washington Post* noted that 80 percent of the Ash Borer insects, plus gypsy moths and a number of other pests may not have survived the cold.

Hopefully our lawns, fruit trees, and other shrubbery will still survive.

* * * * *

State governments, including Wisconsin have been busy trying to establish voting regulations to both encourage larger turnouts and discourage fraudulent practices.

Let's hope they don't use North Korea as a model for consideration.

Even though they claim to have 100% turnout with 100% voting for the winner which is a remarkable achievement under any circumstances their methodology is rather blunt.

"*This Week*" magazine reports that voting is mandatory, every five years, with only one option on the ballot: "yes" to all names listed. If you object to any candidate, you must cross out that name and take the ballot across the room to a special booth, which seldom happens. These elections also serve as the national census so they don't miss anybody.

The 100% turnout is to be commended, but watch out for the guy with the gun in the special booth.

* * * * *

Detroit is considering raising the price of their parking tickets up from the present \$30 after they found that it cost \$32 to process them.

The city needs extra revenue to repair or replace their 3,404 parking meters, most of which don't work

properly in the first place.

Since Detroit has declared bankruptcy, they probably need more important items than parking meters,

* * * * *

We read that Bill Yosses, who was the White House executive pastry chef resigned over frustration after First Lady Michelle Obama orders that he make healthier desserts. He apparently didn't have any dessert recipes not calling for butter, shortening, cream, sugar, salt, or eggs.

* * * * *

Bloomberg Businessweek reports that spend \$108 Billion per year on illegal marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and other drugs. This represents either a huge amount of drugs slipping past authorities into the hands of users, or a huge amount of taxable income being missed by the IRS or both.

There seems to be a push from some politicians to ease up on some of the drug laws, particularly with marijuana. This may become more of a part of our culture as time goes on, but considering all of the fuss we have gone through in recent years to demonize tobacco as a health hazard, and making it a criminal offense to cause injury as a result of alcohol consumption to we really want to go the route of encouraging substance abuse even more?

Maybe the problem is Washington itself as we seem to have a lot of officials freaked out on drugs already.

* * * * *

Governor Walker has signed in to law the bill authorizing a \$406 Million property tax cut for state residents. This a relief from his predecessor who always seemed to need more money to spend. How this will show on your property tax bills payable next year .remains to be seen, but it sure sounds nice

A lot will still likely depend on the budgets to be approved by your local communities, counties and school districts and what state aid formulas the people in Madison work out.

As could be expected critics of the governor could have found other ways to spend the money or a different formula for it's distribution. While the most logical may have been to set aside for a rainy

day fund or deficit reduction the governors plan was to basically return it tp where it came in the first place.

* * * * *

We commend Mayor Schmitt for his initiative inviting Pope Francis to visit Green Bay on a prospective North American visit. The Pope would undoubtedly have a busy itinerary for such a venture, but a sidetrip to the American "*Heartland*," and a city with a historic Catholic heritage would be a great inspiration to many and shouldn't be ruled out at this time.

While he might pass on riding the Zippen Phippen or lunch at Chili John's, there are many other sites appropriate to his visiting this area. He would certainly receive an enthusiastic reception deserving of the role model he presents to all of us.

* * * * *

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce warns that the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) wants business establishments to provide lists of employee phone numbers and personal email addresses to unions in order to speed up union organization elections. If true, so much for all the privacy laws we have.

* * * * *

A recent *Press-Gazette* article commented on public employees, specifically school administrators, who retire at a relatively young age, start drawing a generous pension, and then take a similar position elsewhere while still taking the pension. A practice known as "*double-dipping*."

While retirement benefits are part of an administrators contract, it was not clear whether the pensions are paid from current budgets or segregated funds set aside for the purpose. Either way it provides for an income most people only dream about paid directly or indirectly at taxpayer expense.

* * * * *

The *Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance* announced that Big 10 school spending for athletes in 2011 was \$125,018 each, and \$18,881 for other students. While this inequity is offset by income from athletic events, do the athletes receive the same education as the other students, which is the purpose of the school in the first place.

Are the mega salaries that the few who succeed in pro sports after graduation make a fair measurement of success for a school as compared with the achievements

of other students who attend with the purpose of receiving an academic education?

* * * * *

While on the subject of college athletics, the NLRB has ruled to allow sport teams (Northwestern University) to form union affiliations, as employees of their school. Among other things, they claim it isn't fair that the NCAA makes big money from post season events while the participating players are not paid. (supposedly)

One question would be, "Are participating schools compensated by the NCAA, and do athletes still have college expenses after their generous scholarships are applied?" Are in fact college athletes actually paid salaries while going to school?

In any event, this will likely be a hot topic in months to come, likely resulting in major changes in the way college sports are both recruited and managed. No doubt union organizers see all sorts of possibilities to do their thing. What next, organizing students to strike? And you think getting a college education is expensive now?

* * * * *

The race for Governor of Wisconsin is getting off to an early start with the elections still about eight months away. We will all be glad when it is over.

In the meantime candidates and parties are busy soliciting to build up their war chests for advertising for the important mid-term Congressional races. We will find out if the money, the candidate, the message or a combination of all three is the best way to win. Is there any law against negative political advertising?

* * * * *

Obamacare, Inc. Insurance, has announced 6 Million applications for their product as of March 31. Not quite what was expected, but neither has everyone had time to read what's in it for them yet.

This still leaves about 310 Million not signed up. It would be interesting to see how many people would be covered through their employment, Medicare, or any other qualifying government or private plan, and we doubt it would be any where near 310 Million unless you include those who can't afford or otherwise don't want any part of "Affordable Health Care."

* * * * *

Gov. Walker has signed a bill allowing absentee voting from 8 A.M. to 7 P.M. for two weeks prior to an election.

You can also vote by mail if necessary.

Some people will still find an excuse for not voting no matter how easy you make it for them. Somehow, these seem to be the same people who complain the most and demand the most from the people who do get out and vote

* * * * *

One of the first initiatives from the Obama Presidency was the claim that renewable "green" energy along with mandates and subsidies would create millions of new jobs. This has been followed by countless EPA mandates to reduce air pollution, as well as massive government subsidies for wind farms, and solar panels.

A recent article in the National Review states that most of the nations in Europe had also bought into the green energy theory and collectively had invested billions of dollars to reduce carbon emissions and conserve resources along with taxes and penalties for offenders.

Now for various reasons the European Union is starting to back off of their strict mandates and re-think their strategy, Mainly the high cost of compliance, especially with industries using large amounts of energy is causing some industries to move their operations elsewhere, including the USA.

There is no question that the air we breath is greatly important, as well as the conservation of our resources for future generations but unfortunately these things can't always be mandated to he satisfaction of everyone with the stroke of a pen.

* * * * *

As Obamacare wraps its fingers into our lives, we will be learning more about how the Supreme Court interprets the Constitution as it applies to the "law of the land," to which it is often referred.

The decision in the landmark "Hobby Lobby vs. Obamacare" case may either go a long way toward demonstrating the political differences between the justices, or set a positive route for acceptance of the law.

In any event not everyone will be happy with the decision and a lot more legal challenges are likely.

* * * * *

Among the other elections and referendums voted on in the state

on April 1, Milwaukee County voters had a referendum proposing the \$51,000 annual salary be cut in half. The board itself voted to increase it to that amount in 2011, and there has been much criticism of the boards management in recent months.

It was predicted to pass by a 86-12% in one poll so we will see if the polls were right.

* * * * *

It has always been said that thee are two seasons in Wisconsin, winter and highway construction.

Winter is finally showing signs of ending and the orange barrels are ready to replace the snowbanks, and it seems there are plenty of projects lined up. We always appreciate the improvements when completed.

We recall that at one time the local papers printed weekly maps showing construction areas and posted detours to follow but they even seem to have trouble keeping up..

Hopefully some of the US 41 corridor work will be completed this year which would really be nice.

As usual, lots if 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."

"My reading of history convinces that most bad government comes from too much government."
... Thomas Jefferson

"There are always too many Democratic Congressmen, too many Republican Congressmen, and not enough U. S. Congressmen."
... H. L. Mencken

The TAX TIME\$

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The TAX TIME\$ - April, 2014

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

Tuesday - April 1, 2014. Local and County Elections.
DID YOU VOTE ?

Thursday - April 17, 2014 BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon
Scheduled Program: Brown County Executive
Troy Streckenbach.

Thursday - May 15, 2014 BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon
Scheduled Program: Jim Tobin, Founder and President
Taxpayers United of America.

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

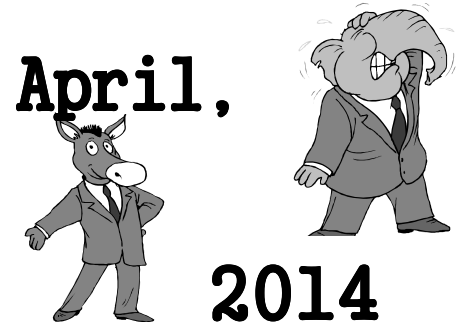
Unless otherwise notified, BCTA monthly meetings are held the Third Thursday of each month, 12:00 Noon, at Titledown Brewing Co., 200 Dousman St.

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.



“Bad officials are elected by good people who do not vote.”

. . . George Nathan

“The chief cause of problems is solutions.”

. . . Eric Severeid

SUPPORT THE BCTA

New Members are Always Welcome. Call 499-7701
Write us at P. O. Box 684
or visit our website
www.BCTaxpayers.Org
for Details.