

It's always February 2nd

The November elections don't really matter.

Next year's crop of affluent politicians will passionately describe a variety of desperate needs for more deficit spending. Millions of new jobs will be guaranteed. Wealthy bureaucrats will assure us the new deficit dollars are only a small, quantitatively eased percentage of GDP. Then, with a few touches on the right computer keyboard, the Federal Reserve will create the necessary billions from...nothing.

Along the way, no questions of substance will ever be asked. Like...is it ethical for government to create money from nothing to finance its spending addictions?

Deficit spending—creating money from nothing—is fraud. It is fraud for the same reason counterfeiting is fraud. Every dollar artificially created reduces the value of money held by those who earn it honestly. Their purchasing power and prosperity are decreased and taken from them in an insidious way. With little ability to expand their incomes, poor people are punished the most by deficit spending.

Washington politicians have run deficits 48 of the last 50 years. They no longer have a reference point for responsible spending. They've placed themselves so far above the law that ethical questions no longer trouble them. And don't expect the media to bring up issues of right and wrong. Properly submissive media celebrities know they'll lose their access to beltway elites if they ask disturbing questions.

It won't matter who the next president is, or which party is in power. The fraud and injustice of deficit spending—creating money from nothing—will continue.

Scott Liddicoat - BCTA Member

July 21, 2016

BCTA Meeting Guest Speakers

The July 21st BCTA Meeting at Doug's Take 5 Grill will include two guest speakers: **Terry McNulty & Mike Gallagher**. The June BCTA Meeting included **Frank Lasee** was our guest speaker.

MAY MEETING NOTES

Representative Macco Speaks to BCTA

John Macco, 88th District Representative to the Assembly, presented some state budget facts and some comments on legislative activity. The 88th Assembly District includes most of eastern Brown County. There are about 57,000 people in his district, as there are in each of the 99 Assembly districts in Wisconsin.

Representative Macco is Vice-Chair of the assembly Ways and Means Committee. He is also Vice-Chair of the Joint Audit Committee.

The GDP of the State of Wisconsin is \$294 billion. State government spending amounts to about \$36 billion annually, about \$100 million per day. This is about \$500 per person per month or about \$6,000 per person annually. The state's debt has been relatively level at about \$14 billion for the last seven years.

It costs \$1.5 million per week for the Stewardship Fund, which is about the continual purchase of more state land even though 24 percent of Wisconsin land is government-owned.

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The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
In our 31st Year of Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government.

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The Audit Committee found that there were 755,000 cases of "unintentional" fraud in the Unemployment Insurance program over a two-year period. There were \$80 million of claims found to be clearly fraudulent. As the Unemployment Insurance Fund is 100 percent paid for by employers, this is an extra burden on state businesses.

The Department of Transportation spending is coming under scrutiny. A local example is the Riverside Drive reconstruction project. The original engineering estimate for the project was \$9 million. It ballooned to \$15 million with the inclusion of sidewalks and a bike lane to satisfy the local government. The bike lane is certainly

questionable as it parallels the trail along the Fox River, only a few hundred feet away.

In Wisconsin, we have 424 school districts in our 72 counties, requiring 424 superintendents and 424 sets of school management teams. Clearly, there are opportunities for consolidation and cost reduction without adversely affecting educational outcomes. School Choice and Open Enrollment are increasing options for students.

The Legislature did not eliminate tenure. It was removed from the Wisconsin Statutes, returning control of tenure policies back to the educational institutions as it is in the other 49 states.

Dave Nelson – Secretary

In praise of the rich

Instead of even higher taxes for the One Percent, maybe it's time to thank them.

Almost anything the rich do with their money is good for America. Left in a bank, their money supports ordinary people who use it for business, consumer, and mortgage loans. When rich people invest their money, that's good for every person in the businesses they invest in. When the rich spend money—even on luxury items—it supports each employee in every business it touches. Finally, many rich people give enormous amounts of money to charity. If any of these money uses were turned into tax collections, would government do better with it? No chance.

There will always be a One Percent. What's unique about America is that people regularly move into and fall out of it. Many One-Percenters were poor or middle class to start with. Some have been in and out of the One Percent several times. This is much better than the permanent One Percent in most countries, made up of the political ruling class and bureaucratic elites.

There's much to be learned from and admired in America's one percent. Perhaps it's time to praise their enterprise, not raise their taxes.

Scott Liddicoat—BCTA Member

Election Year Humor:

If God had wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates. ~Jay Leno~

The problem with political jokes is they get elected. ~Henry Cate, VII~

We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office ~Aesop~

If we got one-tenth of what was promised to us in these State of the Union speeches, there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven. ~Will Rogers~

Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river. ~Nikita Khrushchev~

When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it. ~Clarence

Darrow~

Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel. ~John Quinton~

Why pay money to have your family tree traced; go into politics and your opponents will do it for you. ~Author unknown~

Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other. ~Oscar Ameringer~

I offer my opponents a bargain: if they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them. ~Adlai Stevenson, 1952~

A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country. ~Tex Guinan~

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JUNE MEETING NOTES

Senator Lasee Addresses BCTA

Frank Lasee, State Senator and candidate for the Eighth Congressional District seat, spoke about a number of issues. He currently represents the First Senate District in the Wisconsin Legislature.

Senator Lasee explained that he has wanted to eliminate the personal property tax for a long time. Originally, the personal property tax applied to everything, but it has been narrowed to cover less and less. Presently, the personal property tax produces \$270 million of revenue for the state annually. It could be eliminated if \$270 million of spending was eliminated or the tax burden was shifted to the property tax. Another option is to keep nibbling at the items subject the personal property tax each biennium. That is probably a more practical approach.

The biggest growth in the state budget comes from Medicaid spending, which grows at double-digit rates in every budget. State spending on K-12 education is \$2,000 per student above the national average.

Wisconsin has a lot of land that is not on the property tax rolls, including the 23 percent of Wisconsin land owned

by units of government. The Stewardship Fund is borrowing about \$60 million per year to purchase more land. He believes that the state should sell unneeded land and use the proceeds to reduce borrowing for the Stewardship Fund.

He noted that people want a lot more government than they are willing to pay for. While the state Department of Transportation claims to be inadequately funded, many road projects include significant spending for roundabouts and decorative work. About \$600 million are collected on sales taxes for automotive items each biennium. These dollars could be re-designated from the General Fund to the Transportation Fund, but that would require a reduction in General Fund spending.

Explaining his run for the U.S. Congress, Senator Lasee stated that his number one priority is controlling federal spending in order to balance the budget, and then reduce the federal debt, a toxic legacy we are leaving to our children and grandchildren. He noted that his experience negotiating budgets in the Wisconsin Legislature would serve him well in the U.S. Congress. Finding fraud, waste, and abuse will continue to be priorities for him.

Dave Nelson – Secretary

I have come to the conclusion that politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians.
~Charles de Gaulle~

Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better to change the locks. ~Doug Larson~

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 TIMEES." Please send them to the BCTA, P.O. Box 684, Green Bay, WI 54305-0684 or email BCTaxTimes@gmail.com

"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American...There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."

— Theodore Roosevelt

The TAX TIMES

Brown County Taxpayers Association
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BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

- Thursday - July 21, 2016. BCTA Monthly Meeting.
12:00 Noon. Doug's Take 5
Guest Speakers Mike Gallagher & Terry McNulty
- Tuesday August 9, 2016 Fall Primary Election - Please Vote
- Thursday - August 18, 2016. BCTA Monthly Meeting.
12:00 Noon. Doug's Take 5

BCTA monthly meetings are held the Third Thursday of each month, 12:00 Noon, at Doug's Take 5, 3600 Riverside Drive, 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: \$9.00, Payable at meeting. Includes lunch, tax & tip.
Call Tom Sladek – 499-7701 for information or to leave message.

July-August
2016

**SUPPORT THE BCTA
New Members are
Always Welcome.
Visit our website
www.BCTAxpayers.Org
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