

## Hear That Siren?

Scott Liddicoat, BCTA Member

Investments are all the rage, at least in the media:

Last year congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

◆ Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers wants "to invest in services like after school and out-of-school programs."

◆ Here's how Green Bay Mayor Eric Genrich defended his city budget increase. We need "to continue to make substantial investments in public safety."

◆ In 2016, State Representative David Steffen declared that Brown County excess sales tax revenue should "be used for impactful, long-term, transformative investments."

Thank goodness true investors don't take lessons from politicians. Political "investing" has almost nothing in common with the real investing you and I do. Let's be honest. It's plainly a calculated abuse of the word.

Politicians don't "invest" anything. They spend taxpayer money. Their "investments" seldom involve the purchase of a genuine financial asset. If income or a capital gain is actually produced, it doesn't come back to benefit taxpayers. Returns couldn't come back to us anyway. There's no honest, objective accounting to show anyone any kind of return on "investment" with anything government does.

Unlike you and me, government doesn't set aside other needs or wants to make "investments." They simply tax us more, or (at the federal level) print more cash. To many politicians it's just someone else's money, taxpayer money after all. Government "investments" never solve problems anyway. Has any government crisis you've heard of ever been resolved?

Above all, there's no monetary risk for individual politicians. They never risk their own money on their "investment" schemes. Any "investment" failure is simply concealed with additional tax money, or the failure is just ignored.

If politicians really wanted to serve people and solve problems, they'd start their own businesses instead. Talkers getting to work. Imagine it.

As business owners, they'd take the financial risk of "investing" in all those high paying jobs with generous benefits they talk about. They'd "invest" in manufacturing processes that create no pollution. They'd "invest" in lots of charitable causes. They'd especially "invest" in keeping their prices down.

If their business "investments" actually worked in the free market, employees, consumers, and real investors, would flock to their doors. Everyone involved would be better off and wealthier, too. The problem of businesses doing things the "wrong" way would be solved automatically.

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“Bad” companies would be driven out of business through freedom of choice. Importantly, taxpayers wouldn’t have to “invest” a penny—unless they wanted to. And that would be a real investment. That’s the genuine formula for serving people, solving problems, and making the world a better place.

If you’ve read this far you’ve probably beaten me to these conclusions. Every time you hear or read of a politician wanting to “invest” in anything, an alarm should go off in your head. Really loud. Loud like standing six inches from a tornado siren when it goes off. It’s your money they’re spending and now things are only going to get worse.

Be deeply suspicious of politicians who talk about “investing” taxpayer money. “Dismiss” them at election time. Be just as suspicious of a media that never challenges the deliberate misuse of words like “investing.” More and faster means are available to you to “dismiss” such lazy and deceitful reporting.

Support politicians working responsibly to provide us with honest, deliberate, and just government. Then support and really invest in businesses providing us with products and services that represent our values and our faith. Use freedom to make the world a better place.

Got to go! Joe Biden’s coming to Madison to talk about his “investments” in the economy. Hear anything?

*Scott*

## January Meeting Notes

President Heidel introduced our speaker, Justice Dan Kelly, who is running for the WI Supreme Court in the Spring election.

Justice Kelly shared a concern that the left is attempting to circumvent the legislative process by using the courts to impose their policy desires. He highlighted a New York Times article which shared interview data noting they wanted to elect a liberal justice to the WI Supreme court to help enact measures that could not be passed in a Republican majority legislature. Using the Court to override the power of the legislature and the Governor. He gave an example of a recent debate where a Supreme Court candidate noted the redistricting maps were “rigged” and need to be fixed, implying the courts should fix them. He shared that creating the maps is a political process, to be performed by the legislature, and that the Court should only address legal questions about the process, and not be drawn into the political debate.

He was concerned about candidates sharing their political values and affiliations to indicate how they would rule on cases. His view is a Justice must set aside personal preferences and share how they will apply just the law, as enacted by the legislature. The separation of powers, as provided in the Constitution is designed to keep the Court out of politics, and focusing on the law to protect our liberties. A political Court leads to tyranny.

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Monthly Meetings @ The Village Grille

Monthly meetings are held at **The Village Grille, corner of Hoffman and East River Drive**, Allouez. The location has no stairs or steps, convenient parking, and a room to better accommodate speakers and conversation. There will be three selections from which to choose lunch - each one will be priced at **\$15 (includes tax and tip)**. Lunch is at 12:00 noon with monthly speakers presenting.

### SUPPORT THE BCTA

**New Members Welcome**

**[www.BCTaxpayers.Org](http://www.BCTaxpayers.Org)**

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



Monthly BCTA Meeting, L-R Rich Heidel, Justice Dan Kelly, Tom Sladek

conclusion to the law. If that chain is broken, then it is likely a personal bias influenced the decision.

Treasurer Tom Sladek presented the report of the Nominating Committee and led the elections of Directors and Officers. Re-elected as Directors for three year terms were Richard Carlstedt, Rich Heidel, Dave Nelson, Richard Parins, and Craig Fletcher. Newly elected Directors for three year terms were Scott

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Justice Kelly gave another example about the “Safer at Home” mandate that came from an unelected bureaucrat in the Executive branch, as opposed to properly going through the legislative process. This was a direct override of the separation of powers.

He spoke of the importance of really knowing the candidate you choose is a constitutional conservative, who will apply the law as written and passed by the legislature. He believes he is the best suited as shown by his prior rulings. He cited key issues such as voter protection, right to work, and Act 10 legislation could be overturned by a political Court.

In addressing questions from our members, Justice Kelly could not discuss specific cases that may come before the Court, but shared his decision process of looking at the Constitution, then controlling law and using rigorous logic to reach a conclusion. He stated you should be able to look back at the decision and see an unbroken chain of logic connecting the

Liddicoat, Nola Leuthner, and Tom Leuthner. Elected Officers were Glen Schwalbach-President, Dave Dillenburg-Vice President, Rod Goldhahn-Secretary, and Tom Sladek-Treasurer. Outgoing President Heidel congratulated those elected and thanked all the Directors and members present for their support of the organization.

During Committee reports, President elect Schwalbach shared that local Senator Eric Wimberger was appointed to the Finance Committee and also co-chair of the Audit Committee. He also shared there is a flat tax proposal and proposed Constitutional amendments concerning bail, private election grants, and citizen voting.

Members in attendance thanked outgoing President Heidel and gave him a round of applause for his service to the organization. President elect Schwalbach reinforced those feelings, as well.

Secretary, Rod Goldhahn

## A look at the Governor's Proposed Budget

On February 15<sup>th</sup> Governor Evers presented his 2024 - 2025 budget proposal to the Legislature. The actual proposal fills 1,400 pages. Every time a governor proposes a budget, it is accompanied by a document called The Budget in Brief, intended as a sort of “executive summary.” Governor Evers’ Budget in Brief consumes 155 pages! If you think Wisconsin’s government has grown too large you are not alone. And, if you’ve read Scott Liddicoat’s Tax Times cover piece about the misuse of the word “investment”, be aware that the Governor’s Budget in Brief contains the use of the word “invest” (or its derivatives investing and investment) 137 times! Here are some of the items in the Governor’s proposed budget:

- ◆ Total spending of \$103.8 billion over the biennium, nearly 18% increase in the first year
- ◆ General Purpose Revenue (GPR) spend of \$48.1 billion, increase of 23% in the first year
- ◆ Increases Full Time Equivalent employee count by 817 all funds (369 GPR)
- ◆ Tax increases would cost taxpayers nearly \$1.4 billion (Turns a \$2.8 billion positive structural balance into a \$1.4 billion deficit)
- ◆ Includes welfare expansion and the elimination of drug-testing and work requirements for public assistance; exempts marijuana from drug-testing requirements
- ◆ Legalizes marijuana
- ◆ Includes driver licenses for undocumented individuals
- ◆ Includes resident tuition for undocumented persons and certain American Indian tribes
- ◆ Repeals Act 10 provisions, repeals right-to-work, and reinstates prevailing wage
- ◆ Creates state-based health insurance marketplace
- ◆ Contains numerous climate change initiatives including creating the Office of Environmental Justice and requiring a comprehensive plan be developed by municipalities to address climate change at a cost of nearly \$10 million
- ◆ Changes statutes to gender neutral terminology
- ◆ Creates a Cabinet-level equity officer costing the state nearly \$600,000
- ◆ Creates an "Agency Equity Officer" in nearly all state departments
- ◆ Implements automatic voter registration and decreases residency requirements from 28 days to 10 days
- ◆ Freezes enrollment in school choice programs
- ◆ Allows municipalities to use eminent domain for bike and pedestrian paths
- ◆ Mandates FMLA paid for by private employers and employees, while drastically expanding current qualifications to receive FMLA (Also adds paid family leave for all state employees and UW System employees)
- ◆ Allows counties and larger municipalities the ability to raise sales taxes
- ◆ Removes caps on levy limits allowing the greater of 2% or net new construction, leading to higher property taxes (and removes a requirement that the levy limit be reduced by the amount equal to any fees imposed for covered services)
- ◆ Creates the Tuition Promise Grant program to pay for tuition and segregated fees for students with AGI of \$62,000 or less at UW System institutions

- ◆ \$25,992,000 in both years for a new Aid for English Language Acquisition program
- ◆ \$100 million allocation to specifically focus on fortifying the state’s healthcare workforce by providing grants to healthcare employers and related organizations
- ◆ In addition to the \$100 million health care Workforce Innovation Grant noted above, an additional \$50 million for healthcare workforce shortage solutions
- ◆ \$10 million to support training, reemployment and workforce growth in the clean energy and “green jobs” employment sectors
- ◆ \$3.5 million in both years of the biennium to the Medical College of Wisconsin to support the recruitment and training of psychiatry and behavioral health residents
- ◆ Create the Value-Added Agriculture Grant program with \$400,000 GPR in each year
- ◆ Create the Farm to Fork Grant Program with \$200,000 GPR in each year
- ◆ Expand the state’s outdoor recreation market by providing \$1.1 million and 3.0 full time positions over the biennium to make the Department of Tourism’s Office of Outdoor Recreation a permanent hub for outdoor partners, brands, and industry
- ◆ Create a new Meetings, Conventions, and Sports Bureau within the Department of Tourism, supported by \$2.7 million and 2.0 full time positions over the biennium, to focus on promoting the state as a destination for large company meetings, conventions, and sporting events
- ◆ Provide the largest increase in general aid ever to the Wisconsin Technical College System by investing \$32.9 million in each year of the biennium
- ◆ Provide \$2 million to establish a Southeast Wisconsin Green Jobs Corps Pilot Program
- ◆ Establish a clean energy and reemployment program with \$5 million annually to connect workers with employers that will utilize programs to deliver training for clean energy jobs
- ◆ Provide \$12 million for the continuation of the Worker Advancement Initiative, which provided assistance to individuals whose employment was eradicated due to the pandemic
- ◆ Provide \$4.5 million in one-time dollars to fund the Reengaging Out-of-Work Barrired and Underserved Individuals through System Transformation (ROBUST) Pilot Program to find methods to serve groups that are underserved and disconnected from the labor force
- ◆ Add state support for Tribal family services and to offset the high cost of Tribal out-of-homecare placements by providing \$3,825,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$4,100,000 in fiscal year 2024-25
- ◆ Provide \$11,198,000 annually to continue funding the Partner Up! Program to support partnerships between businesses who purchase child care slots for their employees and childcare providers
- ◆ Expand afterschool offerings by providing \$20 million for out-of-school time grants

Sources: Representative John Macco  
and Governor Evers Budget in Brief

See anything here that you consider unwise? If so, this would be the time to contact your state legislators to let them know. Want to see (countless) more examples? Take a look at the Governor’s Budget in Brief 2023-25 – link available in the Web Links section of our website at [www.bctaxpayers.com](http://www.bctaxpayers.com)

# The TAX TIMES

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## *Inside This Issue*

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**Jan Meeting Notes**

**A look at the Governor's Proposed Budget**

### Meeting Location

**The Village Grille, Allouez**

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

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**Thursday - Mar 16, 2023** BCTA Monthly Meeting.  
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez  
Chad Weininger , Candidate for Green Bay Mayor

**Tuesday - April 4, 2023** Spring Elections

**Thursday - Apr 20, 2023** BCTA Monthly Meeting.  
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez  
Brett Healy, President MacIver Institute

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

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

**COST: \$15.00, Payable at meeting. Includes lunch, tax & tip.  
Call Tom Sladek – 499-7701 for information or to leave message.**

Mar - Apr 2023

**April 4, 2023  
Spring Elections**

**Early Voting  
Starts  
March 21<sup>st</sup>**



[www.BCTAxpayers.Org](http://www.BCTAxpayers.Org)

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