

Editor’s note: Since BCTA actively challenged President Biden’s student loan “forgiveness” scheme, we think it appropriate to offer an alternative solution to “the problem”.

## The Perfect Solution to Student Loan “Forgiveness”

It’s simple and democratic. No one is harmed. Everyone benefits.

Scott Liddicoat

Enough already! Each side knows what the other one wants and doesn’t want. It’s time for the back-and-forth and divisiveness to end. So here’s a simple solution to student loan “forgiveness” that works for everyone.

Just above the **Amount You Owe** on your federal taxes, the IRS prints another box. To the left of it are words that read something like this. “Your contribution to the Student Loan Forgiveness Fund.” Into the box, you write in the amount of money you’re willing to contribute, or not contribute.

Americans are the most generous people in the world. If it’s worthwhile and beneficial, the Student Loan Forgiveness Fund will overflow from the voluntary contributions of those who believe in it. And if contributions are minimal, who can make the claim that student loan forgiveness was a good idea in the first place?

Whether the Fund ends up with a small, medium, or large sum, students may apply for a proportionate amount from a fund that was financed democratically. Everyone benefits. No one is harmed. It’s the perfect civil and democratic solution.

We do this in Wisconsin already for Endangered resources, Cancer Research, Veterans trust fund, Multiple sclerosis, Military family relief, Second Harvest/Feeding America, Red Cross Wisconsin Disaster Relief, and Special Olympics Wisconsin. It works beautifully, and just as I’ve described above. You might call it *The Wisconsin Way*.

This process works simply, voluntarily, democratically, and perfectly in Wisconsin already. Let’s extend it to federal government student loan “forgiveness” and make it *The American Way*.

P.S. It should be added that nearly every political issue could be settled and funded this way—all matters except those the government is legally and constitutionally required to perform. I’d happily look over a list of a hundred (or more) contentious issues while doing taxes to freely decide which ones are worthy of my funding and which are not. I’d just as happily afford every other taxpayer the same privilege.

This approach would serve as a brake on government size and spending. It’s democratic and civil. It would encourage engagement on important political and social issues, and promote *Power to the People!*

*Scott*

## June Meeting Notes

President Schwalbach shared a “Wisconsin Eye” video about the work of the Joint Finance Committee in attempting to get to an acceptable budget bill, as a continuation of last month’s focus on the state budget.

Representative Shae Sortwell, who was also in attendance, provided additional insight into the process and debates.

## July Meeting Notes

President Schwalbach introduced our guest speakers Joe & Diane Bast of Wisconsin Conservative Coalition and Mike Thomas of Fox Valley Initiative.

The WCC is a 501-C-4 organization with a mission to advance conservative ideas, work from a constitutional focus with limited government, and encourage cooperation across member organizations. It provides a platform for like-minded conservative organizations to work together. Member organizations are not required to take similar stands on issues or to address the same issues. WCC holds legislative forums twice each year, inviting area legislators to discuss current issues facing WI. WCC also publishes scorecards showing how legislators voted on key issues. Current members are the Fox Valley Initiative, Northeast Wisconsin Patriots, and Wolf River Area Patriots. WCC’s purpose in presenting to us was to encourage the BCTA to join WCC. Active questioning occurred as members discussed the risks and benefits of joining. Benefits centered around a stronger voice with combined organizations. Risks centered around fit between the BCTA mission and focus on economic issues and that of WCC. A motion was passed to refer the matter to the BCTA Executive Committee for a recommendation to the board.

Treasurer Tom Sladek led a discussion about the BCTA amending the by-laws to register as an Unincorporated Nonprofit Association (UNA). Information concerning this move was emailed to board members prior to the meeting. It was also recommended that we register a representative with the WI Department of Financial Institutions (WDFI). The Executive Committee had made a unanimous recommendation to make this change. A motion was passed to amend our by-laws and change to a UNA and to register Tom Sladek as our representative to the WDFI.

Director Heidel updated the group on a website posting by the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) commending our organization for its leadership role in challenging President Biden’s student loan forgiveness plan. Although the US Supreme Court refused to hear our challenge based on standing, several states followed with similar arguments that were heard and agreed to by the Court. Director Heidel will work on a press release.

Director Liddicoat offered to work on an information piece about the BCTA’s accomplishments to use as an information and recruiting tool.

President Schwalbach reviewed potential speaker for future meetings and committee reports were shared. Items included listening sessions concerning the I41 project, Green Bay Area Public Schools, and the state budget passage.

Rod Goldhahn , Secretary

### SCOTUS DECIDES FEDERAL LAWSUIT ON ISSUES RAISED BY BCTA AND WILL

*Court rules Biden’s tuition forgiveness plan unconstitutional*

Green Bay, WI – (July 27, 2023) – By a vote of 6-3, the US Supreme Court Justices issued a June 30, 2023 decision that the Biden administration overstepped its authority in 2021 when it announced that it would cancel up to \$400 billion in student loans. The Court found that Biden’s plan implicated the “major questions doctrine,” which was the same argument raised by the Brown County Taxpayers Association in its case. BCTA filed the first lawsuit (*BCTA v. Biden, 10/4/22*) in the nation that made it all the way to the Supreme Court, but was unable to obtain an injunction. After the State of Nebraska obtained an injunction a few days later, BCTA dismissed its lawsuit at the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Though the BCTA case did not succeed due to lack of standing, the issue did, and the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) congratulates BCTA for standing up for the rule of law and taxpayers all around the United States.

BCTA President Glen Schwalbach remarked: “*This demonstrates what a small taxpayers’ “watchdog” group can accomplish when driven by its courage of convictions. We also congratulate WILL on a disciplined and timely filing.*”



July Meeting—Joe & Diane Bast of WCC and Mike Thomas of FVI

## How were your 2023 Property Taxes?

Brian K Verheyden BCTA

We all get our notice at the end of year. It is too late to do anything now, do we shrug our shoulders? Do we complain, or is there something more we can do?

Yes, there is much more!

Property taxes don't just magically appear, they are created by our local levels of Government. Most will have four main taxing entities on your property tax bill. The City, Village or Township you live in, Brown County,

Public School District, and the Technical Colleges.

Officials go through a budget planning process that involves public input and learning sessions. Debate and changes occur along the way. Ultimately they are voted on by a board or council. It is while these decisions are being made that we can make a difference.

**2023 property tax collections in Brown County totaled over \$498 Million.** As you can see, the amounts on your property tax bill adds up to a serious amount of Money, a burden on all property owners.

This spring many of those officials are up for election. Contact your local officials and weigh in on the amount of spending and taxation. Contact your friends and neighbors to get them to voice their concerns. A few people can be heard and make a difference. They can let our local officials know that people are paying attention.

## 2024 Spring Elections

Wisconsin's Spring Primary is Tuesday, February 20th. This is a non partisan election. The races that have multiple candidates are thinned down in the Primary. Spring Election is then Tuesday, April 2th. County Board Supervisors, City Alderperson, Village Trustees, Town Board Supervisors, and School Board Members will be on the ballot.

It is up to you to become informed and make the best decision possible.

Please get involved!

*Brian*

## Brown County Property Taxes

	2021	2022	2023
Brown County Tax Levy	91,334,183	92,393,848	92,506,847
City, Village & Town Totals	159,670,170	164,015,791	174,973,048
Technical College Totals	18,259,245	18,354,373	18,506,818
Public School District Totals	205,130,055	208,027,489	212,165,373
Brown County Totals	474,393,653	482,791,500	498,152,087

Source: Wisconsin DOR Statement of Taxes  
<https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/Report/sot-final.aspx>

### 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.com**

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

# The TAX TIMES

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

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## Meeting Location

The Village Grille, Allouez

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

**Thursday - Sept 21, 2023** BCTA Monthly Meeting.  
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez  
Alex Drews and Matt Johnson  
City of Green Bay Assessors Department

**Thursday - Oct 19, 2023** BCTA Monthly Meeting.  
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez  
State Senator Eric Wimberger

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.

Sept - Oct 2023



~~\$30.9 Trillion~~<sup>2022</sup>

~~\$32.7 Trillion~~

**\$32.8 Trillion**

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