

BCTA Seeks Incentives, Accountability in Federal Budget Process

Tom Sladek

In our last issue of the Tax Times, we wrote about yet another Federal government "shutdown". We explained that Congress and the President, under the 1974 Congressional Budget Act (CBA), have an obligation to produce a budget by October 1st for the following calendar year – and that it has been 29 years since they have done that. When there is no budget, the only way to keep the government operating is with a Continuing Resolution (CR) which provides levels of funding from the previous year for a specified period of time. The CR was intended as a way to provide some additional time for the President and Congress to negotiate and pass the required appropriations bills. For 29 years our elected leaders in Washington have disregarded the budget process and operated the nation on a series of CR's, interrupted from time-to-time by a "shutdown" when they cannot even come to agreement to pass a CR.

This is a complete abandonment of their duties to steward the Nation's finances and has led to wild deficit spending and 38 trillion dollars of national debt. It's time this nonsense end and the CBA process be respected and followed. We need incentives and accountability in this process.

January Guest Speaker

Eric Toney Candidate for Wisconsin Attorney General

January 15th 1:00pm

Eric Toney is a tough, experienced prosecutor dedicated to protecting Wisconsin families. Since 2013, he has served as Fond du Lac County District Attorney, successfully prosecuting cases ranging from homicide and sexual assault to drug trafficking, financial crimes, and racketeering.

At our December meeting, members and directors voted unanimously for a resolution which calls for these three things:

1. Whenever the government goes into "shutdown" (no budget passed, and no CR) Congress, the President and their assigned staff are not paid. This compensation is lost to them forever. It should strongly incentivize them to do what their jobs require.
2. Whenever the government goes into "shutdown", tax collections need not be sent to the IRS. Taxes are still collected/withheld, but they may be held

(Continued on page 3)

Oct Meeting Notes

Today's speaker was Jeff Flynt, Deputy Brown County Executive, speaking on the County Budget. The total budget is \$424M with \$96.3M on the property tax levy. Deputy Flynt focused his comments on the levy portion. The projected 2026 mill rate of 2.66 is the lowest on record. Outstanding debt has steadily declined from \$105 million in 2018 to a projected \$29 million in 2026. Drivers include the .5% county sales tax and growth. In the past 5 years, Brown County population has grown to over 278,000, a 3.5% increase compared to 2% for the 18 County New North region. Equalized property value has increased from \$18B to \$36B in the last 10 years. The 2026 property tax levy will increase by 1.8% over 2025, but the tax rate will drop from \$2.80/ thousand to \$2.66 due to growth, so the average home (\$344K) tax bill will go down just under \$50.

Infrastructure investments include a new South Bridge Connector, \$29.5M in road, bridge, and highway improvements, Port improvements, a new Jail pod, Library improvements in Ashwaubenon, Denmark, and Green Bay, Parks and Trail upgrades, and enhancements to Community Gardens.

The largest components of the County levy are the Sheriff's department at 44% and Health & Human Services at 24%. Debt service has dropped to 8%. Key negative budget impactors include an unexpected increase in the Jail Medical Services contract, criminal case backlogs due to limited District Attorney staff resulting in near capacity jail population, and increased non-reimbursed state costs for Child Protective Services and Youth Justice. County leadership is working with state government to try to address those issues.

Business items: President Schwalbach reminded members that anyone interested in submitting editorials or items of interest for the Tax Times should send them to Treasurer Tom Sladek or

Secretary Rod Goldhahn for review and inclusion. President Schwalbach shared current ideas for future speakers and noted his priority is the 911 Call Center. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for January 7th. Glen appointed a nomination committee of Dave Nelson, Tom Sladek, and Rod Goldhahn for directors and officers for next year. Anyone wishing to serve or recommend candidates should contact one of the committee members.

Committee/other reports: President Schwalbach shared information on a MacIver Institute article on welfare in WI. He also reported that the legislative activity in Madison has accelerated since last month, but due to time would table his report until next meeting. Director Parins reported on the Town of Morgan fighting against a proposed wind farm development in their area. There was an open discussion about the proposed replacement of the Mason Street bridge. Secretary Goldhahn shared information on a Press Gazette article about the use and impact of private school vouchers on the Green Bay Public School System. VP Liddicoat noted that Green Bay Schools would likely have an operational referendum next year and suggested we arrange a meeting with them early in the process as we have done in the past. Director Tom Leuthner shared information about his efforts to support fast tracking military veterans into the teaching profession.

Meeting Notes by Rod Goldhahn, Secretary

November Meeting Notes

Today's speaker was William Peters, Green Bay Neighborhood Development Specialist on low-income housing activities. Mr. Peters explained how Green Bay addresses affordable housing in the city. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines "affordable housing" as when a household is not paying more than 30%

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

on annual income on housing expenses. Households that qualify for affordable housing programs are Very Low Income (0-30% of Area Median Income (AMI), Low Income (31-50% AMI), and Moderate Income (51-80% AMI). In Green Bay, AMI is at \$59,950 for a single person, \$68,500 for a two-person family household and up to \$113,000 for an eight-person family household. HUD sets the maximum rental rates that the landlord can charge. There are challenges to developers of affordable housing such as the rising construction costs and limited financing sources. Also, there are restrictive regulatory and zoning laws/ordinances, lack of appropriate land, and lack of infrastructure for basic services and transit. Government programs and philanthropy are needed to enable developers to get a return. Such programs include HUD's HOME Investment Partnership and Community Development Block Grant programs and Green Bay's own Tax Increment District Affordable Housing (TIDAH) Fund which uses property tax increases in revenue from revitalizing an area. There are also Wisconsin's WHEDA program and the Federal Home Loan Bank. Links to more info include: <https://www.greenbaywi.gov/1176/Housing-Market-Study> and <https://www.ggbcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Greater-Green-Bay-Blueprint.pdf>

Business items: Tom Sladek presented the Nomination Committee Report for the Board of Directors. The members present voted unanimously for the nominees. Mr. Sladek then presented the nominations for the BCTA officers. The board members present voted unanimously for those nominees. President Schwalbach announced that Richard Parins has requested a replacement for his chair of the County and Local Committee. That

request will be honored. President Schwalbach provided handouts of a Media Preference Survey by the Pew Research Center to the members.

Meeting Notes by Rod Goldhahn, Secretary

(Continued from page 1)

BCTA Seeks Incentives, Accountability in Federal Budget Process

back (earning interest) by the entity collecting them. When the "shutdown" ends the taxing entities must remit the original tax amounts (not the interest earned) to the IRS within 30 days.

3. When the government is operating under a Continuing Resolution (no budget completed but with a CR in place), the Congress, the President and their assigned staff are not paid. Back pay and benefits are restored to them once the budget process is properly completed.

BCTA has issued a letter to our Congressman and our U.S. Senators outlining our position on this matter and asking each of them to initiate legislation to achieve these ends. Our letter asks for a response by January 23.

Tom

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 1:00 pm 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

Address Service Requested

PRSRT STD
U. S. Postage
PAID
Green Bay, WI
Permit No. 255

Inside This Issue

**BCTA Seeks Incentives, Accountability
in Federal Budget Process**

Oct Meeting Notes

Nov Meeting Notes

Meeting Location

The Village Grille, Allouez

1:00 pm Meeting

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

Thursday - Jan 15, 2026 BCTA Monthly Meeting.
1:00pm at The Village Grille, Allouez
Eric Toney - Candidate for WI Attorney General

Thursday - Feb 19, 2025 BCTA Monthly Meeting.
1:00pm at The Village Grille, Allouez

BCTA monthly meetings are held the Third Thursday of each month, 1:00 pm, 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.**

Jan - Feb 2026



www.BCTAxpayers.com
