

## Voices Found!

Rod Goldhahn, Director

One of the ways your BCTA strives to deliver our mission is by encouraging citizens to get educated and involved in local matters impacting them. At times, this has been very difficult. Family, jobs, and other endeavors make it increasingly challenging to compete for peoples' time. Often, there are only a handful of people willing to speak up at forums and events. Suddenly, that has changed! People across the country are finding their voices and making their wishes heard by our elected officials. There are several reasons: people having more time due to Covid, virtual schooling giving parents a better understanding of their kids' subject matter, easier attending virtual governmental meetings, growing government overreach, economic challenges, and many more. More citizens are attending meetings, both in-person and virtually, and speaking out about their concerns and positions. Whether it's the mandates, CRT, economic policy, feeling kept out of the process, or whatever, things have reached a tipping point.

This is a good thing! Respectful, but passionate debate makes us all more knowledgeable, and more invested in those matters impacting us and our families. Regardless of which side of the political spectrum you are on, healthy debate and greater participation result in a stronger outcome. It forces elected officials to listen and take into account more than the party line. Emphasis needs to be made on "healthy", "respectful", and "passionate". Engaging in threats, intimidation, shout-downs, and harassment does not further a cause and often hurts those trying to impact things the right way. Stating your case respectfully, yet

forcefully, and with large grass-roots support, makes you a formidable force.

The other positive affect we are seeing is if people don't feel they are being heard and able to impact decisions from the outside, they are making efforts to get involved on the inside. An October 21<sup>st</sup> article in the Green Bay Press Gazette noted Wisconsin leads the nation in School Board recall attempts, second only to California. Whether you support recalls or not, the message is clear that in the recall areas, large groups of people don't feel their voices are being heard and are taking action! We are also hearing that more people are considering running for local office. They are supported and encouraged by like-minded friends and associates disenchanted with their current representation. More candidates equal more choice, stronger debate, and a more representative outcome.

Your BCTA is working to help this effort by encouraging people to get involved and providing more information about the matters impacting us. President Heidel has recently revamped our standing committees with an emphasis on education and involvement. As in government, our organization is stronger if more people become engaged. We are always looking for passionate people to join our organization and our committees. How about you? It's a great way to find your voice!

*Rod*

## September Meeting Notes

City of Green Bay Finance Director Diana Ellenbecker and Grant Specialist Susan House presented an overview of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and how the City is reacting.

The Federal Government passed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the funding-fiscal recovery funds (FRF) in March 2021. This Act amends the Social Security Act so that the Treasury could make the payments. Payments to most states and local governments were made in May (half allocation) its funds in June 2021. The local municipalities and Brown County received their payments in June 2021.

Major ARPA/FRF fund allocations\* within Brown County:

- Allouez \$1,454,264
- Ashwaub0enon \$1,796,217
- Bellevue \$1,668,835
- Denmark \$238,330
- De Pere \$2,613,573
- Hobart \$1,055,268
- Howard \$2,111,897
- Ledgeview \$849,071
- Pulaski \$389,471
- Oneida Nation \$118,855,388
- Suamico \$1,366,133
- Wrightstown \$367,177
- Brown County- \$51,384,182
- Green Bay \$23,695,516

This act provides the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF or FRF) to assist states and local governments to: (a) To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality; (b) To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID–19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers; (c) For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID–19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency, and (d) To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

The City is focusing its efforts on three of the categories for our citizens. The City will be using the lost revenue

category for City needs. We want to focus our efforts and projects on neighborhoods and small businesses, crime prevention, and sustainable projects.

We will be having community input sessions as well as a survey to collect community feedback to assist with final project decisions.

Other municipalities are looking at body cameras for their police officers. The State is using funds in many ways, and most recently was asked to fund State Public Defenders in Brown County. Howard is looking at buying land near the Village Hall. Suamico is thinking of big construction projects.

Requirements: Generally, projects that are funded must be used to assist low-income neighborhoods, or a majority of projects must assist low-income neighborhoods. Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expensed by December 31, 2026, or the remaining funds will be returned to the U.S. Treasury.

There will be a survey on the City webpage soon for residents of Green Bay. The City will have two public hearings for residents to gather input, also known as the Budget Road Show. Listening sessions and/ or surveys for other municipalities will need to be verified with their Administrators or staff.

The Interim Final Rule can be found on the Treasury website: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf>

\*Information is taken from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue Website and the Oneida Nation Government website.

Dave Nelson, Secretary

### SUPPORT THE BCTA

**New Members are Always Welcome.**

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

### 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 \$12 (including tip.) Lunch is at 12:00 noon with monthly speakers presenting.

## October Meeting Notes

Eric Toney, Fond du Lac County District Attorney and Republican candidate for Wisconsin Attorney General, spoke about crime and law enforcement in Wisconsin.

He graduated from St. Norbert College in 2006. He is in his ninth year as Fond du Lac County District Attorney. He was elected when he was 28 years old. He and some friends agreed that the incumbent DA was ineffective and should be replaced. He agreed to run for the office. The momentum from his 60:40 primary victory carried him to victory in the general election. He discovered that he thoroughly enjoyed the duties and challenges of the job. He explained his decision to run for the Attorney General position. His dad retired from the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Department as a Patrol Sergeant after over 30 years of service. Seeing the long hours and sacrifices his dad and others made because of their dedication to law enforcement made a vivid impression on him.

He stated that he has prosecuted almost every type of case imaginable: cold-case homicide, domestic violence, racketeering, sexual assault, drunk driving, and complex drug conspiracies.

He explained that he has been privileged to work with many dedicated law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and staff members in adjoining counties as well as Fond du Lac County. He noted that a person can file a complaint in an adjacent county if the district attorney in the resident's own county does not take action. Some of these cases come up each year.

He stated that the current attorney general has focused less on crime and law enforcement support and more on cases with political implications, often not fully enforcing laws that are opposed by special-interest groups.

Eric explained that enforcing all of the laws uniformly to all persons is what distinguishes the United States from the rest of the world. Our dedication to the rule of law is the cornerstone of our democracy.

Meeting with the parents of a 21-year-old who overdosed on fentanyl is one of the most difficult experiences he has had, but it renews his dedication to stopping the stream of drugs flowing from our porous southern border.

He stated that we have an explosion of crime in Wisconsin



Eric Toney, Fond du Lac County District Attorney and Republican candidate for Wisconsin Attorney General, speaks the BCTA.

and our current attorney general shows limited concern about this crisis.

The Milwaukee Police Department is dangerously understaffed and the department is woefully underfunded. Milwaukee set a record for murders last year (190) and is on track to break that record this year with over 200 murders. Last year, Milwaukee had 750 non-fatal shootings. This year the number is nearly 700 at the beginning of October.

The Wisconsin Attorney General is the State's top cop, the chief law enforcement officer. As such, he is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Department of Justice (DOJ), which includes the State Crime Lab and the Department of Criminal Investigation. Eric feels that there is room for improvement in strengthening the support these critical agencies provide to state and local law enforcement.

-Eric Toney stated, "As a front-line prosecutor, it's critical we have an attorney general who'll support law enforcement and has firsthand experience fighting crime. As the next attorney general, my primary focus will be on the safety and security of families all across Wisconsin."

Dave Nelson, Secretary

# The TAX TIMES

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## Meeting Location

**The Village Grille, Allouez**

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

**Thursday - Nov 18, 2021** BCTA Monthly Meeting.  
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez

**Thursday - Dec 16, 2021** BCTA Monthly Meeting.  
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez  
Speaker - Rep David Steffens

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: \$12.00, Payable at meeting. Includes lunch, tax & tip.  
Call Tom Sladek – 499-7701 for information or to leave message.**

Nov - Dec 2021



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