

- Civility
- Property Taxes
- Des Moines International Airport Terminal
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- Recap: IA State Auditor’s “PIE” framework.

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## Civility

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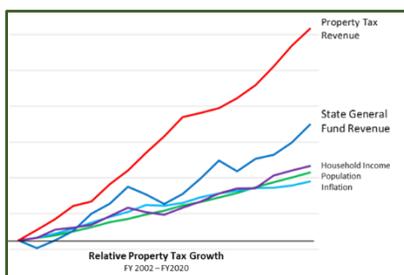
“TACI Town Hall #1” (April 22, 2020) was devoted to dialog regarding “civility” and “polarity management.” The Association has recently been strongly encouraged to amplify its efforts in this regard. Since its founding in 1921, the Association’s mission has been a nonpartisan focus on local public sector issues. **Why is the present dialog so incendiary? What, if anything, can be done** to prevent or redirect a conversation that instantly becomes confrontational?

More will be forthcoming, but a critical first step is to **refrain from personalizing** the discussion. How many times have you heard, “You’re just like...” in response to a comment? Individuals frequently resort to “demonizing,” that is, responding to a comment you have made by suggesting you have the characteristics of an individual they deem “despicable,” rather than dealing with the actual merits of the comment. Name calling often begets name calling, and constructive conversations (if they were possible at all) explode. A parallel suggestion – **refrain from using labels. Focus on the issue.**

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## Property Taxes:

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The table has been set. The following weeks (months?) will be full of talk regarding income tax. Necessary public sector services need to be appropriately funded. Will a reduction in state income tax, via a flat tax or other means, have the consequence of increasing property taxes, or other local taxes and fees? Are not property taxes part of the “affordable housing” discussion?

### **The income tax discussion needs to be broadened.**

Without a thoughtful, comprehensive approach taking more than an election-year legislative session, it is likely unintended consequences may result.

**EVENT:** FOCUS: Iowa’s Tax System – Challenges & Opportunities  
Wednesday, February 23, 7:30  
Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

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## Des Moines International Airport - New Terminal Plan

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In 2013, the Des Moines Airport Authority embarked on the process to develop a new terminal, replacing the existing facility built in 1948 “that has reached the end of its useful economic life.” The Airport Authority is currently soliciting support for a new terminal from central Iowa communities, the state and federal

government. The Program Definition Manual of May 25, 2018, includes a “Rough Order of Magnitude Cost Estimate” of \$431,990,016.

### **Does the project make sense?**

**EVENT:** TACI Town Hall #32 – FOCUS: DSM New Terminal Plan

Wednesday, January 26, 4:30

Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83818934115?pwd=MzN3OGx5YTJJa1RhDU2RWhRTmFMdz09>

Meeting ID: 838 1893 4115 | Passcode: 380259 | Dial in: 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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## Regional Water Discussions

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“In 2017, Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) began a multi-year process with partners from across the region, examining ways to increase cooperation, share decision-making, balance risk, and equitably distribute benefits across the region. A range of alternatives, from merging all retail and water production assets under a single entity to sharing costs and decision-making while maintaining separately governed entities, were considered. FCS Group, a national utility consulting firm, was retained by DMWW, Urbandale Water Utility and

West Des Moines Water Works (WDMWW) to facilitate a process-- which included data gathering, analysis, and stakeholder workshops—that could serve as a basis for establishing a model for a regional water authority.”

The FCS Group financial analysis was completed in October 2018. In September 2019, the DMWW Board issued an alternative framework to the initial FCS model, and subsequent regional discussions have continued since.

**Presently the Trustees of various governing entities are considering resolutions to begin discussions regarding a possible 28-E agreement.**

**EVENT:** TACI Town Hall #33 – FOCUS: Regional Water Overview

Wednesday, February 9, 2022, Via Zoom: (link to be distributed)

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## Recap: IA State Auditor's "Public Innovations & Efficiencies" framework.

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State Auditor Rob Sand discussed the "Public Innovations and Efficiencies (PIE)" checklist and award at TACI Town Hall #31.



"Help Iowa Save Taxpayer Money! As Iowa's Taxpayer Watchdog, our duty is not only to ensure the effective and responsible usage of public dollars across the state but also to promote areas where efficiencies and cost-saving practices can be made. Our office's Public Innovations & Efficiencies (PIE) Checklist serves to guide Iowans as well as state and local governments on the steps they can take to save money and promote efficiency. If your team or organization has adopted one or more of these ... practices, we welcome you to submit your progress using our online submission form. Our office hopes to recognize efforts made to promote public innovations and efficiencies. PIE is a growing initiative. We recognize that the best work is done on the ground, and we want to help promote that. If you have feedback on the current checklist OR would like to provide additional innovations and efficiency recommendations, please submit your feedback..."

Auditor Sand's full comments may be found on the TACI Town Hall website: <https://tacitownhall.org/>

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## In closing – "Social Media"

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As the Association begins its *Second Century*, it has been "strongly encouraged" by members and others alike, that it get current and start building an increased presence on social media. Well, here goes ...

Please follow us on:

[Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [FaceBook](#)!



But, please be gentle as our skills are honed! For those who prefer email: [Pres@taxpayersci.org](mailto:Pres@taxpayersci.org)

***Please forward this notice to your friends, colleagues and neighbors who share your interest in "Vibrant, just, and safe Central Iowa communities."***

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