

- **Civility (or lack thereof)** - “Bad Behavior under the dome!”
  - **Regional Water Utility:** Another step toward a “Central Iowa Water Works”  
(*Event: Town Hall: Wednesday, February 9; 4:30 PM; Zoom details below*)
  - **Iowa’s Tax System – Challenges & Opportunities**  
(*Event: Wednesday, February 23, 7:30 AM; Greater Des Moines Botanical Gardens*)
  - **New Airport Terminal Project** – Town Hall recap
  - **In the Public Interest Award** - Call for Nominations due February 15.
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### Civility

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**"Fight for the things that you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."**

... Ruth Bader Ginsberg

*"When it comes to these gun-grabbing, freedom-hating, over-regulating, civil liberty-violating tyrants, here's my message."*

**State Representative Kaufmann of Wilton then held up both middle fingers, and closed, "Thank you."**

Last week’s TACI Topics posed the question: If most of what is seen in the popular press, late-night TV, video games, movies, and the internet is “bad behavior”, **does bad behavior become “legitimized” and therefore, mimicked?**

Last week we again saw an answer. It wasn’t on late-night TV; it was in Iowa’s capitol rotunda. ***It appears the larger the gathering – the more outrageous the behavior.*** Is this becoming the way to lead, to get others to join you? **Deplorable... and frightening!**

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### Regional Water Discussions

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Last week the **West Des Moines Water Works Board of Trustees voted unanimously to proceed** with negotiations that could lead to the creation of a regional water utility. The vote followed similar resolutions passed unanimously by the Des Moines Water Works Board of Trustees on December 21 and the Urbandale Water Utility on January 12.

The next step will be to negotiate a 28E agreement for what would be known as the Central Iowa Water Works. If enough communities in the region agree to participate, the new utility could become operational by early 2023.

Representatives from the Regional Micro Group have been asked to provide a historical context for this effort and an overview of the report at the Wednesday, February 9, 2022, Town Hall beginning at 4:30 PM. Details may be found on the [Town Hall Website](#).

Zoom meeting link and information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84808649524?pwd=VHBWdklnVFJyVkpkUkJnekZrVzJCUT09>

Meeting ID: 848 0864 9524 | Passcode: 223697 | Dial in: 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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## Iowa Tax Proposals

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The proposals coming from the Iowa State Capitol are starting to roll out... as are the opinions of them.

### **Personal Income Tax Proposals:**

**Governor:** Proposed 4% flat tax for all income brackets, phased in over 4 years starting in 2023. Relies on continued revenue growth. **House:** Similar to Governor's proposal but uses the Taxpayer Relief Fund to offset the reduction in income tax collections. **Senate:** A five-year plan eventually reducing the rate to 3.6%. The Taxpayer Relief Fund would become the "Income Tax Elimination Fund" where and surpluses would be automatically directed to the fund with the ultimate goal to eliminate the income tax altogether.

### **Tax on Retirement Income:**

**Governor:** Removing the state tax on retirement income, beginning in tax year 2023. **House:** Same proposal. **Senate:** Same proposal.

### **Corporate Income Tax Proposals:**

**Governor:** An ultimate rate of 5.5% (current top-bracket rate is 9.8%) with reductions based upon on surplus corporate taxes collected annually. **House:** No changes in rate or exemptions proposed. **Senate:** Reduce rate to 7.8% and eliminate \$141 million of corporate tax credits.

### **State & Local Option Sales Taxes:**

**Senate:** The creation of a "Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund" (IWILL) was passed the Legislatures in 2008 and 2009. Iowa voters amended the state's constitution in 2010 to include a provision that the next time the state passed a sales tax increase, three-eighths of a cent of the tax would go into the fund.

A current proposal would convert the 1-cent local option sales tax that exists in most Iowa communities to a statewide sales tax that would start funding the fund.

**What will the impact of these cuts have on the revenue streams to local public entities? What about property taxes that have increased at a rate multiple times that of local population growth and incomes?**

**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 AM

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

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## Des Moines International Airport - New Terminal Plan

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On Wednesday, January 26, Brian Mulcahy, Director of Finance for the airport authority shared at the TACI Town Hall the ongoing progress toward the creation of a new terminal facility.

- The authority that operates the airport has been independent of the City of Des Moines since 2011. It does not receive any property tax support.
- 57.4% of the individuals that utilize the airport originate in “DSM’s Catchment Area,” The remaining 42.6% are visitors.
- The revenue sources at approximately 1/3 airline landing fees; 1/3 parking revenue; 1/3 leases and concessions.
- The airport has experienced 67% passenger growth in the last ten years.
- It is anticipated the total costs of the project will be \$575,500,00. The current funding sources: Private investment on airport (Signature & UPS): \$18.3M; Authority reserves/revenues/bonding: \$223,2M; Regional municipalities/counties: \$34M; State/Federal infrastructure grants: \$300M.



Further details can be found on the [Town Hall website](#).

**Brian’s candor and the transparency of the Authority regarding the plan, were refreshing!**

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## In the Public Interest Award – Call for nominations

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Annually, the **Taxpayers Association of Central Iowa** honors an individual, a local government or an intergovernmental project that best demonstrates the aggressive pursuit of efficiency over the past year. ***The purpose of the award is to recognition cost-saving, innovation, collaboration, and creativity within public-sector organizations.***

The award committee, chaired by E.J. Giovannetti, will consider:

- The outcome and why is it was significant for taxpayers.
- Would the results have been accomplished in the normal course of business, or did it require special leadership/initiative by a person or group?
- To what extent is the action replicable by others or applicable at a broader scale?

Nominations for the **“In the Public Interest Award”** will be accepted until February 15, 2022, and the winner recognized at the Annual Symposium to be held at the Botanical Center, Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 7:30 AM.

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***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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