

- **Civility (or continuing lack thereof)** – A Des Moines case study.
 - **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*)
 - **In the Public Interest Award** - Call for Nominations due February 15.
 - **The TACI In-Basket**
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Civility



"When a thoughtless or unkind word is spoken, best tune out."

... Ruth Bader Ginsberg

About 45 minutes into a recent “DSM People’s Town Hall” there was a discussion of the Des Moines City Council members that would be up for election in 2023.

Referring to those up for election, Ward 1 City Council Member Sheumaker, said ***“We need to build a slate and get the mother f*****s out of here.”***

About 1 hr-18 min into the Des Moines city council meeting held Monday night (2/27), an individual from Ward 2, during public comment regarding an Ingersoll Avenue project, had nothing germane to offer, but did offer the following: ***“I just wanted to say to all of the Council Members present in the chamber, you are all infact mother f*****s and should be voted out.”*** She then immediately exited the chambers. Absent from the chamber was Council Member Sheumaker who called in.

Justice Ginsberg’s words came to mind. ***Is it any surprise that reasonable people “tune out” individuals that cast “thoughtless and unkind words?”***

Town Hall: Regional Water Discussions

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.

Participants:

- **Dale Acheson:** General Manager, Urbandale Water Utility
- **Christina Murphy:** General Manager, West Des Moines Water Works
- **Ted Corrigan:** CEO & General Manager, Des Moines Water Works



Dale Acheson



Christina Murphy



Ted Corrigan

These three representatives from the Regional Micro Group will 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)

Not to be missed!

FOCUS: Iowa's Tax System – Challenges & Opportunities

The proposals coming from the Iowa State Capitol are starting to roll out as are the opinions of them. Get the facts, in-person over coffee, not just the soundbites.

EVENT: FOCUS: Iowa's Tax System – Challenges & Opportunities

Wednesday, February 23, 7:30 AM - Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

Registration details below

Presenting:



Kraig Paulsen



Jared Walczak



Mike Owen

Kraig Paulsen, Director, **Iowa Department of Revenue**. Appointed Director in 2019 by Governor Kim Reynolds, the mission of the department *“is to serve Iowans and support state government by collecting all taxes required by law, but no more.”*

Jared Walczak, Vice President of State Projects with the Center for State Tax Policy at the **Tax Foundation**. He is the lead researcher on the annual *State Business Tax Climate Index* and *Location Matters*.

Mike Owen, Associate Director, **Common Good Iowa**. Mike coordinates fiscal policy work with other issue priorities at Common Good Iowa, advancing policy ideas that equitably and sustainably address the concerns of all Iowans.

Registration:

- **Individual Members** and those of **Member Firms – Complementary**
 - Register : Admin@taxpayersci.org
- **Non-Members – Preregistered \$10.00**
 - [Register here](#)
- **Non-Members – at the door - \$15.00**

In the Public Interest Award – Call for nominations

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.

Please email submissions to Pres@taxpayersci.org.

The TACI In-Basket

“Thanks for calling out Kaufmann’s antics.”

“Some are tired of being reminded”

“Why didn't you include BLM & ANTIFA as examples of bad behavior. You're the typical pontificating liberal who only represents one side.”

“EXCELLENT, just excellent. Thank you for this insightful newsletter.”

“I am really concerned about residential property taxes for the City of DSM/Polk Co. and my capability to stay in my home ... Actually, my taxes increased 60% in one year and 11% the next. Can you tell me what the new airport means to taxpayers... Thanks for your insights. I plan on attending the program at the Botanical Garden so I will better understand what is happening with the Iowa tax system. “ ... *watch for next week’s TACI Topics*”

***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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