

Taxing and Spending Limits in Wisconsin

A conference sponsored by the Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs to consider alternative ways to limit public spending in Wisconsin and the consequences of doing so

Wednesday, January 19, 2005

Monona Terrace
Madison, Wisconsin

- 8:00 a.m.** **Registration**, Lecture Hall
- 8:30 a.m.** **Welcome**, Lecture Hall
Donald Nichols, professor and director, La Follette School
- 8:45-10:15 a.m.** **Wisconsin Taxing and Spending in Perspective**
Moderator: Terry Shelton, outreach director,
La Follette School of Public Affairs
- “A Comparison of Wisconsin’s Spending and Taxes to Those of Other States and to Its Own Past”* — Donald Nichols, professor and director, La Follette School
- “Who Pays Taxes in Wisconsin?”* and *“The Value to Wisconsin of the Deductibility of State Income and Property Taxes when Computing Federal Tax Liability”* — Audra Brennan, administrator of the Wisconsin Department of Revenue's Research and Policy Division
- Discussant:* Todd Berry, president, Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance
- Audience Q&A*
- 10:15-10:30 a.m.** **Break**
- 10:30-12:30 a.m.** **Consequences of Spending Limits for Public Services in Wisconsin**
Moderator: Maria Cancian, professor, La Follette School
- “The Growth in Health-Care Costs”* — James Knickman, vice president, research and evaluation, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

“What Do We Know About Taxes and Economic Development?”
— William Testa, vice president and director of regional
programs, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

“Consequences of Constitutional Revenue and Spending Limits”
— Andrew Reschovsky, professor, La Follette School

Audience Q&A

12:30-2 p.m.

Lunch, Hall of Ideas

Moderator: David Weimer, professor, La Follette School

“Constitutional Approaches to Government Spending”
— William Niskanen, chairman, The Cato Institute,
Washington, D.C.

2 - 3:45 p.m.

Alternative Taxing and Spending Proposals, Lecture Hall

Moderator: Karl Scholz, professor, Economics Department

*“Freezing the Growth in Property Tax Payments Through
Deferrals: A Property Tax Reform Proposal”* — Donald Nichols,
professor and director, La Follette School

“Controlling Wisconsin's Medicaid Cost” — Tom Hefty,
former chair and chief executive officer of the former
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Wisconsin

“Rainy Day Funds: Alternative Approaches” — Iris Lav,
deputy director, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities,
Washington, D.C.

Discussant: Rick Chandler, president, Chandler Consulting,
LLC; and former Wisconsin secretary of revenue and state
budget director

3:45 - 4:30 p.m.

Panel Discussion and Expanded Q&A

Moderator: Donald Nichols, professor and director,
La Follette School

Conference presentations and papers will be available on the web at
<http://www.lafollette.wisc.edu>