

Conference Agenda
Rethinking Ways to Fund Local Government:
Exploring Property Tax Exemptions
February 19, 2010

Opening Panel: Why We Are Here 10:00 Room 313

Moderator, Mary Reavey, Assessment Commissioner, City of Milwaukee

- Jack Norman, Research Director, Institute for Wisconsin's Future
- Conrad Farner, Superintendent, Greenfield School District
- Mike Huggins, City Manager, Eau Claire
- Doug Burnett, Wisconsin Political and Legislative Director, AFSCME
- Chris Larson, Supervisor, Milwaukee County

Health Facility Exemptions-- A huge growth industry remains exempt from taxes 10:40 Room 313

Moderator, Betsy Kippers, Secretary-Treasurer, WEAC

- Legislative history and changes in the health care industry: Jack Norman, IWF
- Issues and litigation in local communities:
 - Amie Trupke, Attorney, Stafford Rosenbaum, remote satellite clinics in Wauwatosa and Manitowoc:
 - Mark Schlafer, La Crosse Assessor, exemptions for medical equipment
 - Brad Karger, Marathon County Administrator, successful intergovernmental cooperation

Lunch: 12:00 to 12:55 AT&T Lounge

Break-Out Sessions 1:00- 2:00

1. Billboards-- Why are they assessed at 1% of what they should be?

Room 313

Moderator, Jack Norman, IWF

- Pete Weissenfluh, Chief Assessor for the City of Milwaukee
- Charley Weeth, Executive Director, Citizens for a Scenic Wisconsin

2. Nonprofit housing—Should housing for affluent seniors be tax-exempt?

Room 309

Moderator, Dennis Collier, Institute for Wisconsin's Future

- Mary Reavey, Assessment Commissioner, City of Milwaukee
- Steve Miner, City Assessor, Wauwatosa
- Mike Kurth, Assistant Assessor, City of Madison

3. DOR Tax Exemption Board—Can the state help make assessments more consistent?

Room 213

Moderator, Joe Fahey, Institute for Wisconsin's Future

- Jean Adler, Deputy Administrator, Department of Revenue's Division of State and Local Finance
- Jim Murphy, Director, Department of Revenue's Bureau of Assessment Practices

Break: 2:00 to 2:15

Agricultural Assessment Abuse- Intended to help family farmers; now a boom for real estate speculators

2:15

Room 313

Moderator, Brad Karger, Marathon County Administrator

- Jack Norman, IWF, statewide overview and impact
- Bob Lorier, Assessor, City of Brookfield, development property assessed as agricultural land
- Rocco Vita, Assessment Administrator, Village of Pleasant Prairie, use in subdivisions
- Amie Trupke, Attorney, Stafford Rosenbaum, litigation after denial of agricultural assessments

Closing--Where Do We Go from Here?

3:30- 4:00

Room 313

- Mark Harris, Winnebago County Executive
- Jessica King, Oshkosh City Council Member
- Joe Fahey, IWF