

## **“FINANCING WISCONSIN’S FUTURE: POLITICS, ECONOMICS, AND PUBLIC OPINION”**

Madison, Wisconsin, June 22, 2004

### **MAIN SPEAKERS**

#### **Dr. Dean Baker**

Dr. Dean Baker is a macroeconomist and Co-Director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) in Washington, D.C. He previously worked as a senior economist at the Economic Policy Institute and an assistant professor at Bucknell University. His recent publications include: “Medicare Choice Plus: The Solution to the Long-Term Deficit Problem,” “Professional Protectionists: The Gains From Free Trade in Highly Paid Professional Services,” CEPR, 2003; “Promoting Good Ideas on Drugs: Are Patents the Best Way?” CEPR, 2002; “The Run-Up in Home Prices: Is It Real or Is It Another Bubble,” CEPR, 2002; “Money for Nothing: The Increasing Cost of Foreign Reserve Holdings to Developing Nations,” CEPR, 2001; “The Scorecard on Globalization 1980-2000: Twenty Years of Diminished Progress,” CEPR, 2001; “The Costs of the Stock Market Bubble,” “Diverting the Old-Age Crisis: International Projections of Income in the 21st Century,” CEPR, 2000; “Double Bubble: The Over-Valuation of the Stock Market and the Dollar,” CEPR, 2000; and *Getting Prices Right: The Debate Over the Consumer Price Index* (M.E. Sharpe, 1997). He is the co-author (with Mark Weisbrot) of *Social Security: The Phony Crisis* (University of Chicago Press, 1999). He also is the author of the weekly on-line commentary on economic reporting, the *Economic Reporting Review* (ERR) ([www.cepr.net](http://www.cepr.net)).

His columns have appeared in many major media outlets including the *Atlantic Monthly*, the *Washington Post*, and the *London Financial Times*. He is frequently in economics reporting in major media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and National Public Radio.

#### **Michael Ettlinger**

Michael Ettlinger is the Director of the Economic Analysis and Research Network at the Economic Policy Institute (EPI). Founded in 1986, EPI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank that seeks to broaden the public debate about strategies to achieve a prosperous and fair economy. The Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN) is a collaboration between EPI and state-level, regional and national economic research organizations. In addition to directing the EARN program, Mr. Ettlinger engages in research in a number of areas, with an emphasis on tax policy.

Mr. Ettlinger was, for 11 years, Tax Policy Director for the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) and Citizens for Tax Justice (CTJ). In that capacity, he was lead author of *Who Pays: A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All 50 States* (1996), a comprehensive analysis of the fairness of the tax systems of all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and many other studies. Articles by Mr. Ettlinger have appeared in major newspapers, magazines and journals. Mr. Ettlinger has appeared on the CBS Evening News, CNN, C-SPAN, CNBC and other news programs. He has often been quoted in newspapers, magazines and tax journals throughout the country. Mr. Ettlinger has frequently testified and spoken before legislative committees and at conferences and meetings. Prior to his employment with ITEP and CTJ, Mr. Ettlinger was employed by the New York State Assembly. He holds degrees from The American University and Cornell University.

## **Diane Feldman**

Diane T. Feldman is President of The Feldman Group, a highly regarded national political research firm. Established in 1989, The Feldman Group has worked with Democratic candidates from the President of the United States to local school board president, and with unions, issue campaigns, initiatives and referenda across the country.

The Feldman Group has helped win elections nationally and in 40 states. The Feldman Group now works with 15 Members of Congress, including Representatives from California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, Ohio, South Carolina and Wisconsin. It has helped elect Mayors in cities ranging from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to Washington, D.C. The Feldman Group polled for the late Senator Paul Wellstone in his initial upset victory in 1990 and his subsequent U.S. Senate campaigns and for U.S. Senators Harlan Matthews and Ron Wyden.

The Feldman Group polled for Victory '92 and the Clinton-Gore campaign in nine states, was the principal polling firm for Bill Bradley's Presidential campaign and, through Greenberg Research, conducted message research for the Democratic National Committee and Gore-Lieberman in 2000 designed to help mobilize base voters.

The Feldman Group has conducted extensive research for unions and associations on a range of issues, most prominently budget and economic growth issues, education, health care, and racial attitudes. It has helped win initiatives in California, Colorado, Washington and Oregon.

*Campaigns and Elections* magazine calls Diane Feldman "an insightful analyst" known for her "maverick winning ways." As a result of her work, Feldman is the recipient of a Gold Effie award for advertising effectiveness from the American Marketing Association, a Pollie award from the American Association of Political Consultants, and the Lorraine Hansberry/James Baldwin Distinguished Achievement Award.

Before founding The Feldman Group, Feldman was a partner at Feldman, Lester & Associates, and Senior Associate with Greenberg Research. Feldman is a research as well as political professional. She holds a Ph.D. in experimental psychology and quantitative methods from the State University of New York at Binghamton and has held research fellowships at Yale University and Duke University.

## **Andrew Reschovsky**

Andrew Reschovsky is a professor of public affairs and applied economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is an expert on state and local government public finance. Professor Reschovsky has worked for the U.S. Treasury and has served as an advisor to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris. He has also served as an advisor to the Financial and Fiscal Commission and the Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs in South Africa on the design of grants and on the fiscal reform of local governments. His current projects include research on the costs of meeting the requirements of No Child Left Behind, tax policies to increase the rate of homeownership for low-income and minority households, the impact of a Taxpayer Bill of Rights in Wisconsin, and the fiscal problems of central cities.

## **PANELISTS**

### **Kathleen Falk**

Since 1997, Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk has served as the chief elected official for Dane County, whose county seat is Madison. With a population of 438,000, Dane is Wisconsin's second largest and fastest growing county. Known for her leadership and ability in bringing people together over important and often contentious issues, County Executive Falk has focused on initiatives to reduce sprawl, improve land use and water quality; and serve the needs of kids, families, and people with disabilities. She says she loves balancing budgets, and she has earned a top AAA bond rating for management of the county's \$400 million budget. Falk was a candidate for Governor in the Democratic primary in 2002, the first major-party woman candidate for Governor in Wisconsin history. An avid baseball fan, Ms. Falk is married to another baseball fan, Peter Bock, and is the proud mother of a 23-year-old son, Eric.

### **Frederica Freyberg**

Frederica Freyberg anchors the "Here & Now" weekly statewide news program for Wisconsin Public Television (WPT) and is a reporter for WPT's "In Wisconsin" magazine program. Prior to full time work for WPT, Freyberg was state government reporter for Wisconsin Public Radio. She returned to Madison after seven years as a news reporter for WCCO-TV in Minneapolis. Prior to that, she was a news reporter at WISN-TV in Milwaukee and an anchor/reporter at WMTV in Madison. Freyberg is a journalism graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Madison native.

### **Mayor Tim Hanna**

Timothy Hanna was elected Mayor of Appleton in 1996. Previously, Mayor Hanna served two terms as an Appleton Alderman. Currently, he serves as the Governor-appointed Chairman of the Wisconsin Land Council and the Cities' Representative to the Wisconsin Farmland Advisory Council. As a lifelong resident of Wisconsin, he has served on numerous local, regional, and state Boards of Directors, Committees, and Task Forces. Mayor Hanna is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is married with three children.

### **Mike Ivey**

Mike Ivey has been with *The Capital Times* since 1987 covering sports, environment, city hall and, most recently, business. His 2003 series on corporate tax loopholes was named Best Investigative Reporting by the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. Ivey's work has also appeared in the *Milwaukee Business Journal* and the *Christian Science Monitor*.

### **Tim Kelley**

Tim Kelley is opinion page editor of the *Wisconsin State Journal* in Madison, overseeing the editorial page, Sunday Forum, and online forum. Kelley has worked in Wisconsin journalism for many years as an editor and reporter. He covered local and state government for the *Wisconsin State Journal* and was the newspaper's city editor in charge of local and state news. Kelley also previously worked as an assistant director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's communications office

and as deputy editor of a Singapore-based trade magazine. He is a member of the board of the We The People/Wisconsin civic journalism project and a member of the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council.

### **Paul Linzmeyer**

For the past 25+ years, Paul Linzmeyer has successfully transformed companies in San Francisco, Chicago and Denver. In 1994, he returned to his native state to assume the role of President of Green Bay-based Bay Towel, Inc. After spending initial efforts on the company's business and marketing position, he founded (1999) a private sector-led organization whose mission is to share resources and develop partnerships for creating world-class workplaces. The Employers Workforce Development Network has over 60 companies and 20 organizations in seven counties. He currently chairs the State Council on Workforce Investment, the Bay Area Workforce Development Board, and the Green Bay Chamber of Commerce. For relaxation, Paul and his artist wife, Jeannie, enjoy the solitude and relaxation of a small cabin retreat on Lake Lucerne.

### **Mayor John Medinger**

John Medinger is the Mayor of La Crosse. He was first elected in April 1997 and is now finishing his second term. John is a native of La Crosse and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (1970) with a Bachelors degree in Political Science and History. He also has a Master of Arts in Teaching degree with History emphasis from UW-La Crosse (1972). He was a 1972-73 VISTA Volunteer in Prince Edward County, Virginia. John was elected to the State Assembly from La Crosse as a Democrat in Fall of 1976 and served eight terms. From 1993-1997, he was the Western Wisconsin Regional Coordinator for U.S. Senator Russ Feingold. He is married (Dee) and has two stepsons and two adopted children.

### **Richard Mial**

Richard Mial is Opinion Page Editor of the *La Crosse Tribune*. He joined the *Tribune* staff in 1974 and also has served as reporter, city editor, and political writer. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

### **Michael Morgan**

Michael Morgan was appointed Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Revenue by Governor Jim Doyle in January of 2003. He administers the agency that collects over \$10 billion annually in state tax revenue. Morgan most recently served as a Program Related Investment Officer at the Helen Bader Foundation, Milwaukee, since February 2001. He is past president of Spirit of Milwaukee, Inc., a nonprofit organization with a mission to raise the regional and national visibility of Milwaukee's cultural, educational and historic assets. He has also served as Commissioner of the Milwaukee Department of City Development, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission, and head of the city's Intergovernmental Relations Division. A former Assistant District Attorney, he holds both bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## **Ed Muir**

Edward Muir is an Assistant Director in the Research and Information Services Department at the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO. A former New York City teacher, he has a doctorate in political science from New York University. His writing has appeared in *State Education Standard*, *American Educator*, *Journal of Education Finance*, and other publications. His responsibilities at the AFT include research support for state legislative initiatives, and he coordinates a program designed to create a network of legislative staff in the various AFT state federations. He writes a column on public finance called “Taxing Concerns,” which is a regular feature in AFT publications.

## **Joel Rogers**

Joel Rogers is professor of law, political science, and sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and founder and director of its Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS). Rogers has written widely on democratic theory, American politics, and comparative public policy, including such books as *On Democracy*, *Right Turn*, *Rules of the Game*, *Associations and Democracy*, *America’s Forgotten Majority*, *Metro Futures*, and *Working Capital*. He is credited with originating the “high road” concept and branding of firm and regional competitiveness strategies that are both highly profitable to firms and friendly to workers, the environment, and democratic government. He is most recently a founder of the Apollo Alliance, a national project aimed at achieving sustainable U.S. energy independence within a decade. Rogers is a contributing editor of *The Nation* and *Boston Review* and a MacArthur Foundation fellow. *Newsweek* identified him as one of the 100 Americans most likely to shape U.S. politics and culture in the 21st century.

## **Steve Walters**

Steve Walters is Madison bureau chief for the *Journal Sentinel*, Wisconsin’s largest newspaper. He works with two other full-time *Journal Sentinel* reporters based in Madison to cover the Governor, Legislature and Capitol politics. He has covered Wisconsin’s Capitol since 1988 and, before that, was editor of the *Waukesha Freeman* and a statehouse reporter in Iowa. He also teaches one journalism class each semester at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.