

BROWN COUNTY MATTERS

Issue #1

September 2018

OUR PURPOSE:

TO KEEP YOU UP-TO-DATE AND INFORMED ABOUT MATTERS THAT MATTER IN BROWN COUNTY

DID YOU KNOW ?

INCOME Tax – 5th highest in the State, “can be” increased every year by the county council with State approval.

PROPERTY Tax – Among the lowest in the State: Can be adjusted/changed every year based on market activity for some property owners. County, Township, and Schools can also add to the property tax bill as a result of debt, levies, other.

TRENDS – Local Tax and Financial Dashboard. Ref: IN Gateway.
* County Property Tax rates increased by 33%.
* County Total Tax Levy increased by 40.4%
* Certified net assessment (from which property tax is derived), increased by 5.5% (cumulative), which is below the inflation rate. This contributes to the need to raise taxes.

DEBT – 3rd Highest per capita in the State.

Ref: Debt Comparison Report by County
\$30,922,175.00 Total Current Obligations (Principal, Interest, Lease Payments)
Includes the Jail Lease, Road Projects, Maple Leaf
Future Needs/Debt

- Bridges (84) in the County – More than \$9M
- Proposed Justice Center/Courthouse Renovation (\$10M)
- Maple Leaf – additional \$200,000 proposed
- Other Capital Improvements - \$?? for Infrastructure projects i.e.: Historic Courthouse, Overlook, Parks & Rec Building.

FUTURE of BROWN COUNTY EVENTS

VISION FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - STATE OF THE COUNTY MEETINGS

What do you want Brown County to be?

**RDC to host series of input meetings
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. on the following dates:**

9-18-18 – Van Buren Elementary
9-19-18 – Helmsburg Community Church
9-25-18 – Sprunica Elementary
10-4-18 – Helmsburg Elementary
10-11-18 – County Office Building Salmon Room
10-18-18 – Van Buren Elementary
10-25-18 – Sprunica Elementary

For more info, see BCD 9-4-18: “What do you want Brown County to be? RDC to host series of input meetings.”

CANDIDATE FORUMS

**PRESENTED BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
County Office Building Salmon Room**

Tuesday 10-2	County Clerk	6:30 p.m.
	Auditor	7:00 p.m.
	Prosecutor	7:30 p.m.
	Circuit Court Judge	8:00 p.m.
Wednesday 10-3	County Commissioners	6:30 p.m.
	County Council	7:30 p.m.
	School Board	8:15 p.m.
Thursday 10-4	Town Council	6:30 p.m.
	Township Trustees	7:15 p.m.

UPCOMING BC ISSUES:

- **BILL MONROE**
- **TAXES**
- **SIGN ORDINANCE**
- **ELECTRONIC SIGNS**
- **JUSTICE CENTER/COURT HOUSE**
- **REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (RDC) SURVEY/MEETINGS**
- **DRUG & OPIOID CRISIS**
- **MAPLE LEAF GOVERNMENT OWNED MUSIC VENUE**

ELECTIONS MATTER!! YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF BROWN COUNTY

YOUR INPUT MATTERS TO US.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT AND/OR WHAT ARE THE CONCERNs YOU HAVE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE ADDRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER?

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNs THROUGH THE [BROWN COUNTY MATTERS FACEBOOK PAGE](#).

NEXT BROWN COUNTY MATTERS
MEET AND GREET
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
10 am – 1 pm
Brown County Library Lower Level

CAN YOU HELP OUT WITH THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWSLETTER BY PRINTING COPIES AND HANDING OUT TO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS?

BROWN COUNTY ISSUE DETAILS

BILL MONROE MUSIC PARK AND CAMPGROUND

New owners requesting an expansion to the special exception want a change in hours and increases in the number of activities. Opponent's requests include compliance with existing exceptions, more restrictions and more detail regarding proposed changes. Next meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals is Sept 26, 2018 County Office Building.

TAXES

County policy of high income tax and low property tax has likely outlived its useful life. Summary of an economic analysis conducted by IU SPEA graduate students discussed in the article by Sara Clifford – BCD: Report: Local taxes, job options need further scrutiny" by: Sara Clifford/Brown County Democrat, Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

For more info, also see BCD 9-4-18: "Where do your taxes go? Leaders give overview of how government is funded."

JUSTICE CENTER / COURTHOUSE RENOVATIONS

Commissioners contracted for a feasibility study at a cost of \$17,250.00. Presentation by the contractor did not identify a compelling need or discuss the feasibility of other options. The proposal likely to be revisited after the November elections.

For more info, see BCD Letter 6-12-18: "Consider other ways for projects to proceed"

MAPLE LEAF: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A government-owned music venue. Project proposed by innkeepers, approved by Council and Commissioners, who refused to hold public meeting to obtain citizen input on the desirability of this project, address concerns or to discuss other investment options. Also refused to contract for an independent feasibility study.

BROWN COUNTY KEY DATES

- **NASHVILLE DRC – TUESDAY, 9-18 – 7 pm
HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE**
- **BZA MEETING – WEDNESDAY, 9-26 – 6 PM
BILL MONROE PROPOSED CHANGES**
- **REGISTER TO VOTE BY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9**
- **ELECTION DAY – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6**