

Public Policy Cabinet Update – December 2011

During the month of October, we had a fantastic opportunity to meet the candidates for Montgomery County Commissioner. The meeting was an opportunity to show our commitment to advocacy for our clients and agencies. It was also an opportunity to present our position regarding the economic impact of the nonprofit community. To continue this show of commitment, we need to be present at county commissioner board meetings. The following is a link with the commissioner meeting dates and minutes of previous meetings.

<http://www2.montcopa.org/montco/cwp/view,a,3,Q,5188.asp>

Please take a moment to review the site and scheduled meetings. I will follow up at our next collaborative meeting with plan for attendance.

11/28/11 - The following is an article copied from “Nonprofit Advocacy Matters.” The Governor of Alabama recognizes the “economic impact” of nonprofits. This is great news. As we do business within our communities, take a moment, think about our economic impact. Nonprofits are good for business!

Nonprofit Awareness Month

Every resident of the state “benefits from nonprofits’ vital contributions of strengthening our social fabric, public policy, culture, sense of community,” wrote Alabama Governor Robert Bentley in [proclaiming November 2011 to be Nonprofit Awareness Month](#). The proclamation from the state’s highest elected official carries with it significant public acknowledgement of the impact of the nonprofit community. The proclamation underscores economic impact: “nonprofits provide more than 227,000 jobs in Alabama and contribute \$12.4 billion to the state’s economy.” And it highlights the role of advocacy: “nonprofits play a central role in the democratic process by educating the public about vital issues in their communities and our state and by providing a means for individuals to deliberate on and advocate for public policies and decisions that affect them.”



12/12/11 -The following is an article copied from “Nonprofit Advocacy Matters.” A bill has been introduced in the Pennsylvania Senate that would require nonprofits to pay real estate taxes.

Taxes and PILOTs on the Table

Local and state governments across the country are increasingly looking to nonprofits to help replenish their public treasuries. The city of [Scranton, Pennsylvania is seeking an additional \\$25,000 in payments in lieu of taxes \(PILOTS\)](#) that would be earmarked for the city's parks and recreation. A bill in the Pennsylvania Senate would [require nonprofits to pay real estate taxes](#)

based on the assessed value of their land, with an exemption on the first \$200,000 worth of aggregate property value. In New York City, the Bloomberg administration is stepping up enforcement efforts [and may revoke property tax exemptions](#) of the hundreds – and possibly thousands - of organizations that failed to submit verifications required by law. The city of Takoma, Washington is considering a proposal to place a [five percent tax on nonprofits' ticket sales](#), including museums, theaters, and performing arts.

IF YOU ARE NOT AT THE TABLE, YOU ARE ON THE TABLE!