

A

Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois  
Government Structure & Spending Committee  
Commercial Club of Chicago  
April 27, 2018

Committee chair Harry Bond called the meeting to order and the minutes for the meeting on February 23, 2018 were approved (motion by Mike Wynne, second by Don Schaeffer). Chair Bond summarized the Committee's agenda for the year—in each meeting the Committee will review existing information and research on a particular subject matter and determine whether TFI or IFPC should conduct additional research or publish anything on that topic, and to determine whether TFI's existing position statements (if any) on the topic are adequate.

TFI President Portman presented follow-up information on questions raised in previous committee meetings. It was agreed that the Committee would recommend TFI adopt a position statement covering state budget practices, incorporating topics from the meeting discussing out-sourcing of government functions and sales of major government assets, as well as other budget best practices (a topic of a future GS&S Committee meeting later in the year).

The Committee then began discussing the topic of the day—local governments. The Committee reviewed information describing the number of governmental units in Illinois, and the difficulties in obtaining reliable data on their financial situations.

There is increased interest and work in this area, from academics to governmental groups to other civic organizations, and TFI is involved with Transform Illinois, a coalition of parties interested in this topic. Public and legislative interest is growing as well. The Committee discussed the kind of information necessary to properly evaluate local government functions and suggested that elements of the Transform Illinois mission should also be incorporated into a TFI position statement, either by expanding the scope of the budget practices statement to include local governments, or by adopting a separate statement on local governments.

The Committee discussed future meetings and which of the previously-identified topics should be covered next. The future topics are as follows:

- Gaming/Sin taxes
- Gross Receipts Taxes
- Economic Development/Incentives
- Long-term budgeting (with state budget director Hans Zigmund)

With no further business the committee adjourned.