

What Have We Done for you Lately?

Read on to learn what the Association has done to promote safe and affordable housing in Brown County.

Government Affairs Committee

The BCHBA Government Affairs Committee meets monthly to discuss numerous current topics including:

- The Wisconsin housing market and economic outlook
- Permit reports
- How to stimulate investment and growth in the building industry
- Housing incentives
- Housing industry trends
- Tax breaks
- Interest rates
- Mortgage options
- Workforce housing
- Multifamily Interests
- Proposed legislation and fees that would harm or help our industry

For 2016

The Government Affairs Subcommittee will continue to meet with local municipalities throughout the year to discuss obstacles that may curb future development including a shortage of developed lots, wetlands mitigation mandates and financing hurdles.

September 7, 2016

The BCHBA Board of Directors voted to endorse the following candidates, whom it had supported in past elections because they have been proven “Friends of Housing” or have shown support of our issues, related to the housing industry:

- Ron Johnson (R)
U. S. Senate
- Mike Gallagher (R)
U. S Representative, 8th
Congressional District
- Robert Cowles (R)
State Senate, District 2
- Eric Wimberger (R)
State Senate, District 30
- Joel Kitchens (R)
State Representative, District 1

- Andre Jacque (R)
State Representative, District 2
- David Steffen (R)
State Representative District 4
- Jim Steineke(R)
State Representative District 5
- John Macco (R)
State Representative District 88
- John Nygren (R)
State Representative District 89
- Eric Genrich (D)
State Representative District 90

April 14, 2016

The BCHBA raised \$11,770 at its annual Build a Better Wisconsin Auction which helped support candidates who believe in improving housing affordability and home ownership opportunities.

March 18, 2016

As part of NAHB’s “Bring Housing Home Initiative” the Government Affairs Committee and Board of Directors hosted a Legislative Breakfast, attended by 7 State Representatives, 2 State Senators, Congressman Reid Ribble and 52 BCHBA members. WBA Executive Director Brad Boycks presented WBA state issues, NAHB Federal Legislative Manager Julia Bogue spoke on the “Bring Housing Home Initiative” and Congressman Reid Ribble gave a congressional update on housing finance reform and regulatory reform.

March 10, 2016

Multifamily Committee met for a semi-annual roundtable discussion with the City of Green Bay Assistant Attorney, Neighborhood Development Supervisor, and members of the Green Bay Police Department regarding miscommunications that oftentimes occur between landlords, the Inspection Department and the Police Department. Our multifamily

members emphasized we all share the same goal – to have very quiet and safe properties in the City of Green Bay. The meeting was considered by all who attended to be very productive. Our intention is to meet semi-annually to keep communication lines open.

July 17, 2015

BCHBA members, WBA members and staffs worked together with legislators to seek significant changes to prevailing wage laws in Wisconsin. Starting Jan. 1, 2017 prevailing wage rates will not be required on projects paid for by local units of government (towns, villages, cities, counties, school districts, technical colleges and municipal utilities). State projects will still require prevailing wage rates to be used, but the rate will be federalized by using existing Davis-Bacon wage rates established by the federal government. Allowing local projects to not use prevailing wage rates is expected to save these units of government tax dollars that may be available for continued property tax reductions or to increases services to local property taxpayers.

March 17, 2015

The BCHBA Government Affairs Subcommittee interviewed several candidates for leadership positions in the local spring election, then made its recommendations to the Board of Directors, which made the following endorsements because the candidates have demonstrated a willingness to work together to provide a climate of affordable housing:

- Jim Schmitt for City of Green Bay Mayor
- Troy Streckenbach for Brown County Executive

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November 4, 2014

All 13 candidates endorsed by the BCHBA won the fall election including:

- Scott Walker, Governor (R)
- Rebecca Kleefisch, Lieutenant Governor (R)
- Brad Schimel, Attorney General (R)
- Reid Ribble, US Representative District 8 (R)
- Frank Lasee, State Senate District 1 (R)
- Robert Cowles, State Senate District 2 (R)
- Joel Kitchens, State Assembly District 1, (R)
- André Jacque, State Assembly District 2, (R)
- David Steffen, State Assembly District 4, (R)
- Jim Steineke, State Assembly District 5, (R)
- John Macco, State Assembly District 88, (R)
- John Nygren, State Assembly District 89, (R)
- Eric Genrich, State Assembly District 90, (D)

August 7 and 26, 2014

Members of the Government Affairs Subcommittee and Board of Directors interviewed candidates for State Assembly and State Senate. Candidates were provided the opportunity to answer a set of ten questions dealing with housing issues. Recommendations for endorsement were then made to the Board of Directors, based on candidate support of the housing industry. The Board made its endorsements.

June - August, 2014

The Government Affairs Subcommittee continued to meet with local municipalities throughout the summer months to explore ways of increasing development. Members met with the Town of Lawrence, Village of Bellevue

and Town of Ledgeview; each is eager to promote development. Committee members shared information including data on available lots, new construction in Brown County, housing size trends, obstacles and fees that curb development, and problems builders and municipalities will face when the demand returns for housing. The Subcommittee plans to meet with additional municipalities on a continual basis.

November 6, 2013

The Uniform Dwelling Code Council (UDC) unanimously voted to approve revisions to the current wall bracing code as suggested by the BCHBA Builder Inspector Task Force Subcommittee along with WBA members and staff. The UDC Council is made up of builders, suppliers and inspectors who volunteer to help the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) establish policies relating to the one- and two-family codes in Wisconsin.

October 1, 2013

The Village of Howard Board voted at its September meeting to adopt 80' lots with no restrictive covenants and no PUD necessary. A letter sent previously from the BCHBA to the Village Administrator and Board members greatly influenced the decision. The letter opposed an ordinance that included restrictive covenants such as roof pitch and siding/design restrictions that would increase building costs, for example, by \$8,650 on 1,750 sq. ft. home. It would also have affected appraisal values in the Village. The BCHBA Government Affairs Committee has met frequently with the Village staff to explore creative ways to

achieve affordable housing and will continue to keep communication lines open with the Village staff and Board members.

August 21, 2013

Members seeking guidance to the residential appraisal process and tips from experts to help increase the chance for an accurate appraisal may find links to current information on our website. This was developed by members of the BCHBA Government Affairs Committee including builders, realtors, bankers and appraisers. Go to bchba.org, click on Housing Advocacy, Appraisal Tips.

Continually

The BCHBA staff continually informs the public about the housing market and provides tips and ideas to consider for their new home by sharing information in the monthly newsletter and on the BCHBA website. Visit: bchba.org/resource-center/articles.