



FROM IDEAS TO IMPACT:

Advancing American Values

TAX DAY ISSUE, 2017

As Americans, a government “of the people, for the people and by the people” is an ideal we hold dear. Tax Day reminds us of this foundational concept. In this brief, we highlight three diverse, yet related areas: tax reform, government deregulation, and formation of a vital independent sector that encourages limited, locally-empowered government.

FOSTERING LIMITED GOVERNMENT

The American tax system is tremendously inefficient. Ever-increasing individual and corporate taxes provide extensive coercive power to the federal government.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BURDEN ON PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES (2015 data)



\$3.675 trillion – Total Federal Fiscal Burden in 2015

For comparison, \$3.675 trillion dollars in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) places 4th on the Global GDP list, ahead of Germany (\$3.36 trillion) and behind third place Japan (\$4.38 trillion).

Source: 2016 Edition of *Ten Thousand Commandments*, Competitive Enterprise Institute (A Bradley supported organization)

Bradley advances limited government by supporting organizations that strive to lower taxes, curb regulation and government overreach, and build a vibrant independent sector. Here are a few examples:

Since 1991, **Americans for Tax Reform (ATR)** has promoted fundamental tax reform and spending restraint, opposing all efforts to increase the overall tax and regulatory burden on taxpayers and businesses. ATR presents its research and programs regularly to policy analysts and decision makers, leading opinion makers, and a nationwide network of coalitions.

This year, the **National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)** is conducting the Tax Policy and Economic Activity project with Bradley support. NBER's TAXSIM model will be upgraded, enabling nongovernmental researchers to analyze the current tax system and calculate various effects on household and business decisions, the distribution of tax liabilities, labor supply, and social mobility. Project findings will be widely disseminated through NBER's extensive network and via their signature Tax Policy seminar.

At the state level, Bradley supports **Tax Foundation's Center for State Tax Policy (CSTP)**, which fosters competitive federalism through research, outreach, and advisory services to state policymakers. In 2017, CSTP is promoting pro-growth tax reform efforts while highlighting the detrimental effects of estate taxes in a number of states.

“The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money.”

— Alexis de Tocqueville



CURBING REGULATION AND GOVERNMENT OVERREACH

Deregulation and a shift to state and local government control are keys to returning to the limited government envisioned by the Constitution. **The Center for State Fiscal Reform** at the **American Legislative Exchange Council** publishes *Rich States, Poor States*, an annual report measuring the economic outlook of each state by examining key variables such as state income, tax structure, labor policies, and regulatory burden. This report consistently finds that states with low, flat tax rates, limited spending, and reasonable regulations attract business and capital, leading to job growth and greater economic health. *Rich States, Poor States* is made available to government leaders, and provides key data points for **State Policy Network (SPN)** affiliated think tanks.



State Policy Network (SPN) is dedicated to improving the effectiveness of independent, non-profit, market-oriented, state-focused think tanks. Independent think tanks like the Bradley-supported **Wisconsin Policy Research Center**, **MacIver Institute**, **Mackinac Center for Public Policy**, **Illinois Policy Institute**, and **The Buckeye Institute**, are assessing, analyzing, and giving voice to local and state-level policy challenges. Bradley's support of SPN ensures that organizations like these continue their critical role in public policy reform.



Principled Philanthropy
from America's Heartland

BUILDING A VIBRANT INDEPENDENT SECTOR

The efficacy of a government “of the people, for the people and by the people” rests on citizens fully engaged in shaping their own lives and helping their fellow Americans. This vital independent sector will always be better positioned and more fiscally efficient to meet public needs in local communities than broad, expensive, one-size fits all government programs which foster dependence.

Bradley advances a voluntary culture of interdependence aimed at restoring the capacity of everyday citizens to provide for and govern themselves by funding organizations like **Community Warehouse**, which hires and trains background-challenged men and women so they gain work experience, and **ACTS Housing** which helps low-income Milwaukee families become homeowners.

To strengthen families and help children find their paths to success, Bradley funds groups like **Running Rebels Community Organization**, which provides positive choices for Milwaukee children and teens who face daily pressures of delinquency, drug abuse, truancy, and teen pregnancy. By supporting **St. Marcus Lutheran Church and School**, Bradley helps ensure access to an innovative education model that helps children and families achieve academically at the post-secondary level and beyond.



PRESERVING AMERICAN VALUES

The first donor-advised fund in the country to be affiliated with a private foundation, the **Bradley Impact Fund** exists to help you advance the conservative causes most meaningful to you.