Since joining the Forum, Rob has authored or co-authored five reports that won national awards from the Governmental Research Association. He was named one of Milwaukee’s 100 most influential leaders in The Milwaukee Business Journal’s annual “Power Book” in 2012 and one of Milwaukee’s “Game Changers” by M Magazine in 2013.

Before he became Forum President, Rob worked in Milwaukee County Government for nearly 10 years, serving as Director of Research for the County Board, Director of Health and Human Services, and Director of Administrative Services. He also has directed two non-profit organizations in Milwaukee - the Alliance for Future Transit and the Milwaukee Jobs Initiative. Prior to moving to Milwaukee in 1994, he worked for seven years on Capitol Hill as a senior aide to two congressmen and as staff director for a House of Representatives foreign affairs subcommittee.

In addition to leading the Forum, Rob is an adjunct associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s School of Architecture and Urban Planning, where he teaches on transportation policy. He also served as President of the Governmental Research Association, which includes nearly 30 research organizations from 19 states, from 2014-16.

Rob has a Bachelor’s degree in History from Brown University. Born and raised in Newton, Massachusetts, he lives in Bayside with his wife, Barrie, and dog Barkley. The couple has two grown sons, Danny and Ben.

In recognition of his service to Wisconsin as head of the state’s leading independent nonpartisan public policy research organization, Rob Henken is the Rotary Club of Milwaukee’s 2019 Person of the Year.

Rob Henken is the President of the Wisconsin Policy Forum (previously Public Policy Forum), a position he has held since 2008. Rob recently orchestrated the merger of the Forum with the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance thereby creating the Wisconsin Policy Forum with unprecedented state-wide and local influence on crucial matters facing our government.

Year after year, Rob has taken the time to address not only our Rotary Club, but the entire state, on important public policy issues facing our city, country and region, in presentations that help to clarify and influence those in a position to make a difference.

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