



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

February 8, 2017

Contents this week:

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

California cities making headway in more democratic practices

EDUCATION

50-state funding for pre-K—trends, opportunities

EMPLOYMENT

Massive employment loss predicted from repeal of Affordable Care Act

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

2016 efforts to safeguard California's water supply

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Public corruption increases government debt

16% of CA State Auditor recommendations not yet implemented

HEALTH

Rural Americans at higher risk from leading causes of death

HUMAN SERVICES

Overview of services available to CA veterans

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Autonomous vehicle legislation: 50-state overview

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

California Municipal Democracy Index 2016. Nicolas Heidorn. California Common Cause. Dec. 2016. 76 p.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0By_szx5phNHIOFA0cV9fNTdSX0k/view

A recent survey of California county clerks finds "...notable progress for small democracy among the state's 482 cities. City councils elected at-large can be less representative, especially of overlooked neighborhoods, minority groups and the politically powerless. But between 2011 and 2016, the number of California municipalities with more representative district elections nearly doubled from 31 to 59. That's

about 12% of the 482 cities in California, including many larger ones.... [And] fewer cities are holding elections in odd-numbered years, or in even years on dates different from statewide elections." The report states more improvements are needed in limiting campaign contributions and increased transparency in donors. (*Sacramento Bee*, Jan. 6, 2017).

EDUCATION

***50-State Review: State Pre-K Funding 2016-2017 Fiscal Year: Trends and Opportunities.* By Louisa Diffey, et al. Education Commission of the States. Jan. 2017. 10 p.**

http://www.ecs.org/ec-content/uploads/State_Pre-K_Funding_2016-17_Fiscal_Year_Trends_and_opportunities-1.pdf

"An analysis of the 2016-17 state appropriations for pre-kindergarten (pre-K) by the 50 states and the District of Columbia (D.C.) shows continuing support from both Republican and Democratic governors, legislators and state boards of education. In the 2016-17 budget year, 30 states increased funding levels for pre-K programs. Overall, state funding has increased by nearly \$480 million or 6.8% since 2015-16." With a 13% increase in appropriations for part-day and full-day state preschool, California was one of 30 states with increased levels of funding.

EMPLOYMENT

***Repealing Federal Health Reform: Economic and Employment Consequences for States.* By Leighton Ku, et al. Milken Institute School of Public Health. Jan. 2017. 18 p.**

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/files/publications/issue-brief/2017/jan/ku-aca-repeal-job-loss/1924_ku_repealing_federal_hlt_reform_ib.pdf

Estimates suggest that repealing the Affordable Care Act will result "...in a \$140 billion loss in federal funding for health care in 2019, leading to the loss of 2.6 million jobs (mostly in the private sector) that year across all states. A third of lost jobs are in health care, with the majority in other industries. If replacement policies are not in place, there will be a cumulative \$1.5 trillion loss in gross state products and a \$2.6 trillion reduction in business output from 2019 to 2023. States and health care providers will be particularly hard hit by the funding cuts."

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***California Water Action Plan Implementation Report: 2016 Summary of Accomplishments.* California Natural Resources Agency, et al. Jan. 2017. 32 p.**

http://resources.ca.gov/docs/california_water_action_plan/CA_WAP_Impl_Rpt_2016.pdf

"Key achievements in 2016 include an infusion of funds to bring to fruition two mandates: sustainability of water supplies and more sophisticated conservation measures. Hundreds of millions of dollars in State bond funds, which will leverage hundreds of millions of dollars in local and federal funds, were disbursed to local water districts and others for water recycling, installation of more efficient irrigation technology on farms, and many other projects. Dozens of habitat restoration projects were funded or launched, including the largest-ever tidal wetlands restoration project in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). In addition, California supported the implementation of Klamath dam removal through bond funding and amendments to a key multi-party agreement."

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

“Corruption and State and Local Government Debt Expansion.” By Cheol Liu, et al. *Public Administration Review*. Published ahead of print. Jan. 10, 2017. 10 p.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/puar.12711/pdf>

“[S]tates with more public corruption convictions have greater levels of government debt. Fighting corruption ... can help governments limit debt and lower the higher borrowing costs they're subject to.... Researchers found that the 10 most corrupt states would have owed an average of 9% less, or \$249.35 per capita, if they cut levels of corruption to the 50-state average.... From 1977 to 2008, the study found the relationship between corruption convictions and debt to be strongest for long-term debt issued for private purposes. Debt issued for private purposes typically involves more private-sector players, opening up more opportunities for corruption.” (*Governing*, Jan. 24, 2017).

Recommendations Not Fully Implemented After One Year: The Omnibus Audit Accountability Act of 2006. California State Auditor. Jan. 12, 2017. 72 p.

<http://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2016-041.pdf>

“From November 2009 through October 2015, the State Auditor issued 232 reports that related to audits or investigations of state agencies.... [and] made 1,739 recommendations.... However, the State Auditor identified 306 recommendations to 52 state agencies that had been outstanding at least one year and remain not fully implemented as of October 2016. From January 2011 through October 2015, the State Auditor issued 42 reports to nonstate entities, and made 371 recommendations to these entities.... However, the State Auditor identified 41 recommendations made to 18 nonstate entities that had been outstanding at least one year and not fully implemented as of October 2016.”

HEALTH

“Leading Causes of Death in Nonmetropolitan and Metropolitan Areas—United States, 1999-2014.” By Ernest Moy, et al. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 66, no. 1 (Jan. 13, 2017) pp. 1-8.

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/ss/ss6601a1.htm?s_cid=ss6601a1_e

“Americans living in rural areas are more likely to die from five leading causes of death than people living in rural areas, according to a new government report. Many of these deaths are preventable, officials say, with causes including heart disease, cancer, unintentional injuries, stroke, and chronic lower respiratory disease.... The study also found that unintentional injury deaths were about 50 percent higher in rural areas, partly because of greater risk of death from car crashes and opioid overdoses.” The report suggests there are ways to close the gap in rural communities, such as screening patients for high blood pressure, promoting smoking cessation, and engaging in safer opioid prescription practices. (*CBS News*, Jan. 12, 2017).

HUMAN SERVICES

Understanding the Veterans Services Landscape in California. By Callie Freitag. Legislative Analyst’s Office. Jan. 2017. 28 p.

<http://lao.ca.gov/reports/2017/3525/veterans-services-011717.pdf>

“The state’s veterans homes provide independent living and long-term care services to about 2,500 California veterans.... In this report, we describe the demographics of California’s veterans and provide a high-level overview of veterans services provided in the homes and services provided in the community. We then review the federal and state services available to veterans for long-term care, transitional housing, mental and behavioral health, and employment assistance and provide our findings. Finally, we

highlight issues for legislative consideration and offer options to improve service delivery within the veterans homes.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Autonomous/Self-Driving Vehicles Legislation. National Conference of State Legislatures. Dec 12, 2016.

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/autonomous-vehicles-legislation.aspx>

The National Conference of State Legislatures has published a compendium of existing and proposed state legislation touching on autonomous vehicles across the U.S. According to the study: “In 2016, 20 states introduced legislation. Sixteen states introduced legislation in 2015, up from 12 states in 2014, nine states and D.C. in 2013, and six states in 2012. Since 2012, at least 34 states and D.C. have considered legislation related to autonomous vehicles.” The report includes a detailed list of enacted and proposed bills.

About the California Research Bureau

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