

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU  
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY  
Studies in the News**

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**California -- One Hundred Years Ago**

**March 1910** – “At a joint meeting of directors of the Chamber of Commerce and directors of the Panama-California Exposition Company this afternoon, the following was adopted: ‘Resolved that the Panama-California Exposition accepts the offer of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce to act as an intermediary in the controversy between this exposition and the Panama-Pacific Exposition. But suggest, for the consideration of the Los Angeles chamber, that as a condition precedent to consideration of any compromise, that San Francisco shall raise by subscription, for its proposed exposition, the sum of \$5,000,000, the subscription of this sum having been named by the representative of the San Francisco exposition as the basis of their claim to the support of the people of the State of California.’”  
Los Angeles Times (March 24, 1910) p. II11.

**May 1910** – “With California united on the question of the Panama Exposition, there was great enthusiasm tonight at a dinner given at the Metropolitan Club by the San Francisco exposition delegation to members of Congress.... Prior to this there had been a general exchange of felicitations over what was felt to be a happy settlement of the differences which had existed between San Diego and San Francisco regarding the priority of right to the idea of holding an exposition. It is understood that San Diego waives the privilege of pressing her claims at this time and that she will join in asking that Congress recognize San Francisco by passing resolutions asking the nations of the world to be represented at San Francisco in 1915.” Los Angeles Times (May 7, 1910) p. I5.

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## **Introduction to Studies in the News**

*Studies in the News* is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the California State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the California State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at [www.library.ca.gov/sitn](http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn)

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261); [csinfo@library.ca.gov](mailto:csinfo@library.ca.gov) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

**California's After-School Commitment: Keeping Kids on Track and Out of Trouble.** By Brian Lee, *Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California*. (Fight Crime, San Francisco, California) March 2010. Various pagings.

Full text at: <http://www.fightcrime.org/state/california/news/california-leads-nation-after-school-investment>

["California is leading the nation in its commitment to after-school programs. The majority of funding for California's after-school programs came from a 2002 voter-approved measure. The After School Education and Safety Act provides \$550 million each year to programs aimed at students from low-income families. Making this money go even farther, schools have leveraged state funding to raise over \$1 billion in cash and in-kind matching funds since the state program was founded.... Unfortunately, California still falls short of meeting the after-school needs of students and families. Nearly 2,000 schools in low-income neighborhoods are still without state or federal after-school programs and many interested schools have been turned away due to lack of funding. Additionally, more than half of existing state programs surveyed have waiting lists."][Request #S10-6-4677]

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### PRISONER REENTRY

**Release Planning for Successful Reentry: A Self-Assessment Tool for Corrections.** By Robin Halberstadt and Nancy G. La Vigne, *the Urban Institute*. (The Institute, Washington, DC) January 2010. 97 p.

Full text at:  
[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412019\\_Assessment\\_Tool\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412019_Assessment_Tool_FINAL.pdf)

["For prison administrators who want to improve their release planning policies -- often in the face of limited resources -- determining what kinds of services to provide to prisoners and where to invest resources within the prison system can be a difficult task.... This self-assessment tool is designed to help you evaluate the services the prisons in your state provide to exiting prisoners to prepare them for release, identify goals for enhancing these services, and develop strategies to overcome obstacles you may face when making policy improvements. The tool is organized according to the most basic needs prisoners face at the moment of release: transportation; clothing, food and hygiene; financial resources; housing; identification and other important documents; employment and education; and community resources and support systems."]

[Request #S10-6-4560]

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## PRISONS

**Prison Count 2010: State Population Declines for the First Time in 38 Years. By the Pew Center on the States. (The Center, Washington, DC) March 2010. 10 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Prison\\_Count\\_2010.pdf?n=880](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Prison_Count_2010.pdf?n=880)

["California's prison population declined in 2009 for the third straight year as the number of state prisoners fell nationally for the first time in nearly four decades. The overall decline was relatively small, 0.4% of roughly 1.4 million state inmates in the nation, but the study's authors said it is significant because it represents the first year-over-year drop since 1972.... One big downward pressure on California's inmate population is a federal court order to cut the prison population by as many as 40,000 inmates. Another has been the state's outsized deficits, which has led lawmakers to try to trim money from the corrections system.... And state corrections and parole officials have tried to slow the revolving door of prisoners who leave lockups only to return months later after violating parole." Los Angeles Times (March 17, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-6-4658]

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**The 2010-11 Budget: Prison Receivership Proposals Pose Significant Financial Risks. By Aaron Edwards, California Legislative Analyst's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) March 16, 2010. 8 p.**

Full text at: [http://lao.ca.gov/analysis/2010/crim\\_justice/receiver/receiver\\_031610.pdf](http://lao.ca.gov/analysis/2010/crim_justice/receiver/receiver_031610.pdf)

["In February 2006, the federal court appointed a Receiver to take over the direct management and operation of the state's prison medical health care delivery system. In this brief, we (1) provide a status report on the Receiver's actions, (2) present an overview of state spending on inmate medical care, (3) analyze the various requests contained in the Governor's budget for the Receiver, and (4) identify issues and recommendations for legislative consideration. Specifically, we recommend that the Legislature: require the administration to present at budget hearings a detailed plan on how its proposed \$811 million in savings will be achieved; withhold action on staffing requests pending the submission and our review of the above plan; and, fund only the most critical IT projects in the budget year and delay funding for the less critical projects."]

[Request #S10-6-4657]

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## DEMOGRAPHY

### RACE & ETHNICITY

**“Growing Diversity among America’s Children and Youth: Spatial and Temporal Dimensions.”** By Kenneth M. Johnson and Daniel T. Lichter. IN: **Population and Development Review**, vol. 36, no. 1 (March 2010) pp. 151-176.

Full text at: [Growing Diversity](#)

[“The size of the minority population is projected to grow to 235.7 million or 54 percent of the total US population by 2050. The seeds of diversity are being sown today by immigration and high fertility, which are revealed in growing racial and ethnic diversity among America’s children and youth.... Predictably, growing racial diversity has been caused by rapid growth of minority children, especially Hispanic children, but perhaps less predictably by absolute numerical declines of non-Hispanic white children.... More than 500 US counties in 2008 had ‘majority-minority’ populations of children, a number considerably higher than for the US population overall.... The geographic landscape of race suggests the emergence of two Americas: an increasingly racially diverse country and a largely white one.”]  
[Request #S10-6-4688]

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## ECONOMY

### AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

**Commitment Is a Two-Way Street: Toyota, California, and NUMMI.** By Harley Shaiken, University of California, Berkeley. Prepared for the Toyota NUMMI Blue Ribbon Commission. (California State Treasurer's Office, Sacramento, California) March 3, 2010. 32 p.

Full text at:

[www.treasurer.ca.gov/nummi/report.pdf](http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/nummi/report.pdf)<http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/nummi/report.pdf>

[“Toyota has announced plans to close its New United Motor Manufacturing, Incorporated (NUMMI) vehicle assembly plant at the end of March. The closure will idle 4,700 workers at the plant, the largest mass layoff in California since the Great Recession began in December 2007, and threaten a total of almost 25,000 jobs across the state. Using estimates by the President's Council of Economic Advisers it would cost taxpayers \$2.3 billion to replace the almost 25,000 jobs that could disappear.... The collaborative efforts of Californians, which have bolstered NUMMI’s success, are ongoing. A ‘Red Team’ of state, local government, private sector and other officials have proposed significant tax and business incentives to retain the plant.”][Request #S10-6-4638]

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## CALIFORNIA

**What Has the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Meant for California? By California Budget Project. (The Project, Sacramento, California) March 4, 2010. 34 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2010/100304\\_ARRA\\_Impact.pdf](http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2010/100304_ARRA_Impact.pdf)

[“The ARRA's \$787 billion package of spending and tax measures -- including \$85 billion that is estimated to benefit California and Californians -- has boosted economic activity, helping to reduce the number of jobs lost during the longest and most severe recession in the post-World War II era. While the effects of the economic downturn continue to linger, the consensus of leading economists is that without the ARRA, the recession would have been far worse. Most of the ARRA's funding, including critical assistance for states, expires in 2010 or soon thereafter. Additional federal funds are needed to assist struggling workers and their families, as well as help California avert yet another round of deep spending cuts that would further weaken the state's fragile economy and potentially impede the national recovery.”]

[Request #S10-6-4627]

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Making Up for Lost Ground: Creating a Governor's Office of Economic Development. By the Little Hoover Commission. (The Commission, Sacramento, California) February 2010. 80 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/200/report200.pdf>

["Broader issues of taxation, regulation, education and transportation all factor into improving the perception and reality of California's long-term prosperity. In the short term, however, the state must improve its economic development operations to harness and match California's existing strengths with a long-term economic development strategy. The Commission recommends the immediate creation of a lean, nimble, economic development unit within the Governor's Office. This high-level and high-profile office would serve as the visible national and international point of contact for existing businesses, large and small, as well as local, state and federal economic development leaders. It would set policy for the state's economic development activities, integrating them with other state growth and infrastructure priorities."]

[Request #S10-6-4662]

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## INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

**In the Crossfire: Critical Infrastructure in the Age of Cyber War. By Stewart Baker and others, Center for Strategic and International Studies. (The Center, Washington, DC) January 2010. 44 p.**

Full text at: [http://img.en25.com/Web/McAfee/NA\\_CIP\\_RPT\\_REG\\_2840.pdf](http://img.en25.com/Web/McAfee/NA_CIP_RPT_REG_2840.pdf)

["Critical infrastructure owners and operators report that their networks and control systems are under repeated cyberattack, often from highlevel adversaries like foreign nation-states. Assaults run the gamut from massive DDOS attacks designed to shut down systems all the way to stealthy efforts to enter networks undetected. Although attribution is always a challenge in cyberattacks, most owners and operators believe that foreign governments are already engaged in attacks on critical infrastructure in their country. Other cyberattackers range from vandals to organized crime enterprises. Financially motivated attacks like extortion and theft-of-service are widespread.... Bad as all this is, respondents believe the situation will get worse not better in the future."]  
[Request #S10-6-4617]

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## EDUCATION

### EDUCATION FINANCE

**Funding California Schools: The Revenue Limit System. By Margaret Weston, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) March 2010. 39 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=921>

["California's 978 school districts receive the majority of their funding through a formula known as 'revenue limits.' While it is commonly believed that this funding is equitably distributed across districts, this is not the case. In 2005-2006, this funding differed across districts by as much as \$3,871 per student. This report examines the components of the formula determining revenue limits, discusses the variations in funding, and considers potential reforms in school finance."]  
[Request #S10-6-4679]

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## TEACHERS

**A Smarter Teacher Layoff System: How Quality-Based Layoffs Can Help Schools Keep Great Teachers in Tough Economic Times. By The New Teacher Project. (The Project, Brooklyn, New York) March 2010. 12 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.tntp.org./files/TNTP\\_Smarter\\_Teacher\\_Layoffs\\_Mar10.pdf](http://www.tntp.org./files/TNTP_Smarter_Teacher_Layoffs_Mar10.pdf)

["Limited options for cutting personnel costs will unfortunately force more districts to lay off teachers in the coming months. Schools nationwide could be forced to fire many of their best teachers and a generation of children will suffer the consequences -- all because of outdated rules that the teachers responding to surveys appear to overwhelmingly reject.... Districts and unions must act now to replace quality-blind layoff rules with fair, transparent policies that put the needs of students first and allow schools to retain their best teachers in times of upheaval. The best solution is to use data from credible teacher evaluations, which will take time for most districts to develop. Quality-based rules will reduce the number of layoffs needed to meet budget reduction goals. They will replace a system that treats teachers as interchangeable parts with one that respects their skills as professionals."]

[Request #S10-6-4674]

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**Ring the Bell for K-12 Teacher Tenure Reform. By Patrick McGuinn, Drew University. (Center for American Progress, Washington, DC) February 9, 2010. 38 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/02/teacher\\_tenure\\_reform.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/02/teacher_tenure_reform.html)

["Contemporary researchers and policymakers have highlighted the importance of improving teacher quality at schools that serve poor, minority, and/or special needs students.... Yet much of the political and scholarly attention in the area of teacher quality has to date focused on the issues of teacher recruitment, preparation, compensation, and distribution. The issue of teacher tenure, or 'continuing contracts,' has received less attention despite its potential importance to efforts to improve teacher quality.... Little analysis has been conducted on actual past state efforts to bring about such changes or the political dynamics around the issue. This report seeks to begin to fill the void in the scholarly literature and direct researchers to fruitful lines of future investigation."]

[Request #S10-6-4684]

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**Seniority-Based Layoffs Will Exacerbate Job Loss in Public Education. By Marguerite Roza, Center on Reinventing Public Education. (The Center, Seattle, Washington) February 2, 2009. 4 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.crpe.org/cs/crpe/download/csr\\_files/rr\\_crpe\\_layoff\\_feb09\\_.pdf](http://www.crpe.org/cs/crpe/download/csr_files/rr_crpe_layoff_feb09_.pdf)

["K-12 school districts that lay off personnel according to seniority cause disproportionate damage to their programs and students than if layoffs were determined on a seniority-neutral basis.... If a district is required to use layoffs to cut its budget by 10 percent and cuts the most junior employees, it will need to axe 14.3 percent of its workforce (including teachers) to meet the 10 percent budget reduction. On the other hand, if that district followed a seniority-neutral layoff policy -- say by a standard of employee effectiveness -- only 10 percent of the workforce would lose their jobs."]

[Request #S10-6-4685]

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## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **IMMIGRATION**

**Bridge to Immigration or Cheap Temporary Labor? The H-1B & L-1 Visa Programs Are a Source of Both. By Ron Hira, Rochester Institute of Technology. (Economic Policy Institute, Washington, DC) February 17, 2010. 17 p.**

Full text at: [http://epi.3cdn.net/60b75ba377ebc081b5\\_hem6b5qjc.pdf](http://epi.3cdn.net/60b75ba377ebc081b5_hem6b5qjc.pdf)

["The popular press, pundits, business and university leaders, and policy makers often make an elementary, but critically important error when discussing high-skill immigration: they equate guest worker visas, such as the H-1B and L-1 visas, with permanent immigration. While permanent residence allows foreign nationals to live and work in the United States permanently, guest worker visas like an H-1B or L-1 allow them to live and work in the United States only temporarily and under very restrictive circumstances. These circumstances put guest workers in a precarious position that invites their exploitation, creates insecurity for them, and undermines the integrity of the labor market. These problems are caused by poorly conceived immigration policies -- a combination of loopholes and the fact that employers, rather than workers, control the work permit."]

[Request #S10-6-4660]

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## MINIMUM WAGE

**Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers: 2009. By the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. (The Bureau, Washington, DC) March 1, 2010. 14 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.bls.gov/cps/minwage2009.pdf>

["Minimum wage workers tend to be young. Although workers under age 25 represented only about one-fifth of hourly-paid workers, they made up about half of those paid the Federal minimum wage or less. Among employed teenagers paid by the hour, nearly 19 percent earned the minimum wage or less, compared with about 3 percent of workers age 25 and over. About 6 percent of women paid hourly rates had wages at or below the prevailing Federal minimum, compared with about 4 percent of men. The percentage of workers earning the minimum wage did not vary much across the major race and ethnicity groups. About 5 percent of white, black, and Hispanic hourly-paid workers earned the Federal minimum wage or less. Among Asian hourly-paid workers, about 4 percent earned the minimum wage or less."]

[Request #S10-6-4665]

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## ENERGY

### RENEWABLE ENERGY

**Jobs Impact of a National Renewable Electricity Standard. By Navigant Consulting. (RES Alliance, Washington, DC) February 2, 2010. 21 p**

Full text at: <http://www.res-alliance.org/public/RESAllianceNavigantJobsStudy.pdf>

["A national mandate requiring utilities to generate 25 percent of power from sources such as wind and solar energy by 2025 will create three times more jobs than weaker measures Congress is considering.... Clean energy backers have been lobbying Congress to adopt a higher national renewable mandate than the measures lawmakers are considering, but they face opposition from lawmakers concerned about raising energy prices during a recession.... The alliance pointed to the study's findings that every state would gain more jobs from a higher renewable standard. The Southeast, which is heavily reliant on coal, would benefit from thousands of new jobs in the biomass industries." Reuters (February 5, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-6-4667]

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## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

### BAY DELTA

**Coalition for a Sustainable Delta, et al. v. John McCamman, in his official capacity as Acting Director of the California Department of Fish and Game. U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California. 1:08-CV-00397-OWW-GSA. Motion for Summary Judgment. February 22, 2010. Various pagings.**

Full text at: <http://www.sustainabledelta.com/media.html>

["The lawsuit targets the Department of Fish and Game, alleging it has ignored harm to native fish and instead acted to bolster the striper population.... This is the essential question in a lawsuit over the striped bass, a non-native fish introduced to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta from the East Coast in 1879 to create a commercial fishery.... 'This administration has a responsibility to fix this,' said Michael Boccadoro, spokesman for the coalition. 'They're going to be asking voters to pass \$11 billion in (water) bonds in November. How can you do that when a state agency is knowingly worsening a situation in the Delta?'... There is general agreement that striped bass eat endangered fish. But there is no scientific certainty about how many they eat.... A trial date in the case is set for June 22 in federal district court in Fresno." Sacramento Bee (February 27, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-6-4693]

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**A Scientific Assessment of Alternatives for Reducing Water Management Effects on Threatened and Endangered Fishes in California's Bay Delta. By the Committee on Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta; National Research Council. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) March 2010.**

["A panel has concluded that the much-disputed fish protections that have curbed water deliveries to the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California are scientifically justified.... The panel acknowledged that the pumps that draw huge amounts of water from the delta and send it south are not the only factors hurting the delta environment. They called for more monitoring and studies and emphasized that 'reversing or even slowing the declines of the listed species cannot be accomplished immediately.' The committee also conceded that there was 'substantial uncertainty' about where to set a key trigger for the pumping limits, which change according to delta flows, the location of the fish and other conditions. But the experts repeatedly said that despite such reservations, the federal actions were 'scientifically justified.'" Los Angeles Times (March 19, 2010) 1.][Request #S10-6-4695]

Book. 104 p.

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12881](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12881)

Executive Summary. 20 p.

[http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record\\_id=12881&type=pdfxsum](http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12881&type=pdfxsum)

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## **BIRDS**

**The State of the Birds: 2010 Report on Climate Change. By Brad Bortner and Paul Schmidt, U.S. Department of Interior. (The Department, Washington, DC) 2010. 32 p.**

Full text at: <http://audubonportland.org/issues/state-of-oregons-birds/stateofbirds/birdsreport>

[“Birds that rely on oceans and live on coastlines are more vulnerable to climate change than birds found in any other habitats in America. Terns that live on California's beaches -- along with murrelets, auklets, puffins and other species found in offshore areas like the Farallon Islands off San Francisco -- face loss of habitat from rising seas, disruption of ocean food supplies and other problems in the decades ahead as the planet continues to warm.... One reason birds on coasts and islands are considered particularly at risk is because rising sea levels are expected to inundate low-lying marshes, beaches and islands. To adapt to climate change, restored wetlands will need to be designed differently, invasive species battled more aggressively, and coastal development better balanced with beach protection.” San Jose Mercury News (March 11, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-6-4626]

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## **WATER CONSERVATION**

**California Farm Water Success Stories. By Juliet Christian-Smith and others, Pacific Institute. (The Institute, Oakland, California) March 2010. 75 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.pacinst.org/reports/success\\_stories/success\\_stories.pdf](http://www.pacinst.org/reports/success_stories/success_stories.pdf)

[“The new report analyzes successful examples of sustainable water policies and practices to demonstrate how innovative growers and irrigation districts are already beginning to move California toward more equitable and efficient water management and use. These practices are making a difference and there are steps, both in policy and on-the-ground, that can to help further them. Viable alternatives to traditional approaches can help California meet today’s water management challenges. Integrating practices in these success stories into long-term policy and planning could lead to a very different California -- one where efficient, equitable, and sustainable water uses are the norm, rather than the dream.”]

[Request #S10-6-4694]

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## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

### FEDERAL GRANTS

**Counting for Dollars: The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds.** By Andrew D. Reamer, Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) March 2010. 24 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/0309\\_census\\_dollars/0309\\_census\\_report.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/0309_census_dollars/0309_census_report.pdf)

["The accuracy of the 2010 Census will determine the geographic distribution of a substantial proportion of federal assistance, particularly in the form of grants, over the coming decade. The bulk of census-guided federal assistance goes to state governments through a handful of large formula grant programs to aid low-income households and support highway infrastructure. State per capita census-guided funding is positively related to income inequality (high annual pay, high poverty), Medicaid income limits, and the percent of the population that is rural. The decennial census facilitates federal funds distribution largely through being the basis for ten other federal datasets, most importantly the Bureau of Economic Analysis' per capita income series and the Census Bureau's population estimates."]  
[Request #S10-6-4651]

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### INITIATIVES & PROPOSITIONS

**Of the People, By the People, For the People: A 2010 Report Card on Statewide Voter Initiative Rights.** By the Citizens in Charge Foundation. (The Foundation, Lake Ridge, Virginia) January 2010. 85 p.

Full text at: <http://www.citizensincharge.org/stategrades>

["For over a century, the initiative and referendum process has given voters a greater voice in their government. The right to initiative is recognized by 24 states, as well as thousands of local jurisdictions all across the country.... Citizens in Charge Foundation believes that citizens everywhere must have a say in their state and local governments through a system of initiative and referendum that is open and accessible to the average person.... Citizens in Charge Foundation has created this report card to give a clearer picture of the extent to which residents of various states have the ability to affect their government through the initiative and referendum process. The startlingly low grades received by a majority of the states should serve as a rallying point for citizens around the country."]  
[Request #S10-6-4652]

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Making the Most of Social Media: 7 Lessons from Successful Cities.** By Chris Kingsley, Fels Institute of Government. (The Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) March 2010. 30 p.

Full text at: [http://ivyridgegreen.org/media/Fels\\_socialmedia\\_final.pdf](http://ivyridgegreen.org/media/Fels_socialmedia_final.pdf)

["This manual is written for local governments -- cities, counties, townships and their affiliates -- that are beginning to experiment with social media and would like to get more out of them. Its emphasis is on the use of specific applications, such as Facebook and Twitter, by government managers and communications directors. More than two dozen 'early adopters' were interviewed for this report. Their experiences offer some lessons to local governments about what sorts of tools social media offer, how to integrate them into a busy office, and how to use them creatively to be more effective."]

[Request #S10-6-4668]

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## PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

**The Trillion Dollar Gap: Underfunded State Retirement Systems and the Road to Reform.** By the Pew Center on the States. (The Center, Washington, DC) February 2010. 66 p.

Full text at:

[http://downloads.pewcenteronthestates.org/The\\_Trillion\\_Dollar\\_Gap\\_final.pdf](http://downloads.pewcenteronthestates.org/The_Trillion_Dollar_Gap_final.pdf)

["Coming up with the money to pay for future obligations is expected to burden state and local governments and school districts with huge retirement costs that could translate into higher taxes and fewer basic services for the next generation of taxpayers. State governments face a \$1-trillion shortfall, the difference between what they owe current and future retirees and what they expect to have available to pay promised benefits. California's two big systems accounted for \$122 billion of the deficit, but the outlook has darkened in the last 18 months with the onset of the recession of 2008 and 2009. States could trim future obligations by reducing benefits for future employees and requiring greater employee contributions to retirement funds. They also could raise retirement ages and improve the way pension funds are managed." Los Angeles Times (February 17, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-6-4646]

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## HEALTH

### HEALTH INSURANCE

**Barely Hanging On: Middle-Class and Uninsured. By the State Health Access Data Assistance Center, University of Minnesota. Prepared for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. (The Foundation, Princeton, New Jersey) March 2010. 11 p.**

Full text at:

[www.rwjf.org/files/research/58034.pdf](http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/58034.pdf)<http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/58034.pdf>

[“A smaller percentage of Californians had private health insurance in 2008 compared to 2000, and those who did still have coverage were paying a lot more for it. The percentage of Californians with employer-sponsored health insurance declined from 57.9 percent to 54.5 percent. Nearly one in five -- or 19.5 percent -- of Californians got their health care through the government in 2008. That number grew from 17.2 percent in 2000. Inflation-adjusted premiums for single coverage for one year increased from \$2,783 to \$4,280, a 54 percent increase. For family coverage, premiums increased from \$7,435 to \$12,254, a jump of 65 percent. The average employee contribution increased from \$424 to \$741 for single coverage and from \$1,856 to \$3,398 for families.” HealthyCal.org (March 17, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-6-4649]

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### MARIJUANA

**Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research: Report to the Legislature and Governor of the State of California. By Igor Grant, University of California, San Diego, and others. (The Center, San Diego, California) February 11, 2010. 24 p.**

Full text at:

[www.cmcr.ucsd.edu/CMCR\\_REPORT\\_FEB17.pdf](http://www.cmcr.ucsd.edu/CMCR_REPORT_FEB17.pdf)[http://www.cmcr.ucsd.edu/CMCR\\_REPORT\\_FEB17.pdf](http://www.cmcr.ucsd.edu/CMCR_REPORT_FEB17.pdf)

[“Smoking pot provides effective relief of pain-related medical conditions. Pot smokers can achieve the same pain reduction at low doses as higher doses – meaning they don't have to get high to obtain relief for medical conditions.... Marijuana can provide relief for neuropathic pain caused by injuries, infections, diabetes, strokes and other conditions that affect the nervous system. Smoking pot offers at least short-term relief for spasticity by soothing pain and muscle spasms in sufferers of multiple sclerosis. ‘There is good evidence that cannabinoids (in marijuana) may be an adjunct or a first-line treatment,’ said Dr. Igor Grant. The results of the study could have significant policy implications in California, which is dealing with a burgeoning medical marijuana market and regional disputes over governance of pot dispensaries.” Sacramento Bee (February 17, 2010) 1.]

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## NATURAL DISASTERS

**The Next Challenge in Healthcare Preparedness: Catastrophic Health Events. By Eric Toner and others, Center for Biosecurity of UPMC. Prepared for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (The Center, Baltimore, Maryland) January 2010. 68 p.**

Full text at: [The Next Challenge](#)

[“Individual hospitals, cities, states, and the country as a whole remain unprepared for a catastrophic health event (CHE) that results in thousands or tens of thousands of sick or injured persons. Improved preparedness and response for CHEs is possible and should be built on the successful work already completed by hospitals, coalitions, and their local, state, tribal, and federal partners. Ensuring the development of functional healthcare coalitions throughout the country is an important first step because such coalitions will enable all communities to respond effectively to common medical disasters and will create the necessary infrastructure for CHE response. Once established, healthcare coalitions will have to be linked together, and much greater patient transport capability will have to be established.”]  
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## RESEARCH

**How Will Comparative Effectiveness Research Affect the Quality of Health Care? By Elizabeth Docteur, Center for Studying Health System Change, and Robert A. Berenson, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) February 2010. 15 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412040\\_comparative\\_effectiveness.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412040_comparative_effectiveness.pdf)

["Debates about raising the profile of comparative effectiveness (CE) have generated a lot of controversy and left open a number of decisions that will determine its impact on health care delivery, quality of care and outcomes. The public debate on these unresolved issues continues, even as public- and private-sector actors move forward to implement those decisions that have been made.... This issue brief aims to further the ongoing policy debate by investigating the implications for U.S. health care of an increased role for comparative effectiveness research. It considers the specific hopes and fears of experts and stakeholders with respect to the prospective impact of CE on quality and outcomes, and evaluates the basis for those beliefs. It looks at what policy options are on the table, and the implications of various alternatives for quality and outcomes of health care."]  
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## HOUSING

### HOME OWNERSHIP

**A Path to Homeownership: Building a More Sustainable Strategy for Expanding Homeownership.** By Rick Jacobus, University of California, Berkeley, and David M. Abromowitz, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) February 24, 2010. 36 p.

Full text at: [http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/02/shared\\_equity.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/02/shared_equity.html)

["We have learned some important lessons from the foreclosure crisis. Most renters, of course, face multiple barriers to homeownership. Inadequate credit, lack of sufficient income, and other challenges may exist in addition to the lack of wealth or savings for a standard down payment. This is even more so the case with minority family renters. Recent research consistently shows that wealth barriers pose the most significant obstacle to ownership for most of these low-income and minority families. As this paper will highlight, the lack of savings and family wealth can be addressed with carefully crafted programs. Federal homeownership programs, however, have long focused primarily on credit and income barriers, and far too little on overcoming wealth barriers to homeownership."]

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## HUMAN SERVICES

### EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

**The Costs of Disinvestment: Why States Can't Afford to Cut Smart Early Childhood Programs.** By the Partnership for America's Economic Success. (The Partnership, Washington, DC) January 2010. 3 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/uploads/20100119\\_TheCostsofStateDisinvestmentBrief.pdf](http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/uploads/20100119_TheCostsofStateDisinvestmentBrief.pdf)

["Cutting effective early childhood programs hurts states now. When public resources are stretched thin, essential programs for young children often lose out in the budget process. Budget cuts that deprive children of a strong developmental start mean society and taxpayers lose, too. Investments in early child development benefit states now. This year, policy makers in every state are forced to make hard choices. Priority must go to programs whose demonstrated economic and societal benefits, based on solid research, save money now and generate future revenue."]

[Request #S10-6-4671]

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## EARNED INCOME TAX CREDITS

**Left on the Table: Unclaimed Earned Income Tax Credits Cost California's Economy and Low-Income Residents \$1 Billion Annually. By Antonio Avalos and Sean Alley, New America Foundation. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) March 2010. 29 p.**

Full text at:

[http://assetsca.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/Left\\_on\\_the\\_table\\_NewAmerica.pdf](http://assetsca.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/Left_on_the_table_NewAmerica.pdf)

["The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is one of the federal government's largest resources for working low-income Americans. It is widely regarded as the nation's most effective and efficient anti-poverty program and has been expanded by a series of Democratic and Republican presidents. Hundreds of thousands of Californians, however, fail to claim EITC refunds, which range from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. The families and individuals who miss out are not the only losers when these refunds go unclaimed. Local economies never benefit from this money. These dollars are never spent at local businesses so fewer jobs are created, fewer wages are paid, and eventually less tax revenue goes to state and local governments. These refunds are a foregone economic stimulus for California."]

[Request #S10-6-4659]

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## POVERTY

**L.A. County: A Tale of Two Cities, One Future. By the United Way of Greater Los Angeles. (The United Way, Los Angeles, California) February 2010. 16 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.unitedwayla.org/getinformed/rr/Documents/TOTC\\_Footnotes.pdf](http://www.unitedwayla.org/getinformed/rr/Documents/TOTC_Footnotes.pdf)

["We were not prepared for an economy that has changed over time as well as slowed. As a result, the middle class has eroded and we have become a community of 'haves' and 'have nots.' Los Angeles County was in crisis before the recent economic downturn. We are now in danger of falling further behind.... To achieve the robust growth required to pull us out of the current economic downturn, we'll need all hands on deck. Equity is not just a social issue. It directly impacts our economic prosperity. How do we address the reality of the American Dream today - - where people cannot lift themselves up by their bootstraps if they don't have access to quality education, safe, affordable housing and well-paying jobs? These issues seem daunting, but they are not. We know what works. Now we need to work together to implement those solutions."]

[Request #S10-6-4672]

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## TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

**The Employment Retention and Advancement Project: Results from the Los Angeles Reach for Success Program. By Jacquelyn Anderson and others, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) November 2009. 148 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/541/full.pdf>

["This report presents implementation and two-year effectiveness results for the Reach for Success (RFS) program, operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). RFS offered individualized and flexible case management services to recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance benefits -- primarily, single mothers who were working at least 32 hours per week but earned too little to leave assistance.... Concerted outreach, customer service, flexibility, and individualized attention were what primarily distinguished RFS services from regular postemployment services (PES); fewer clients than expected, however, received RFS's work-based services. Over two years, RFS did not lead to greater employment or higher earnings than PES did."][Request #S10-6-4583]

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## TRANSPORTATION

### BICYCLING AND PEDESTRIANS

**Bicycling and Walking in the United States: 2010 Benchmarking Report. By Kristen Steele and Monica Altmaier, Alliance for Biking & Walking. (The Alliance, Washington, DC) January 2010. 196 p.**

Full text at:

<http://peoplepoweredmovement.org/site/images/uploads/2010%20Benchmarking%20FINAL%201.25.09-Web.pdf>

["Government officials working to promote bicycling and walking need data to evaluate their efforts. In order to improve something, there must be a means to measure it. The Alliance for Biking & Walking's Benchmarking Project is an ongoing effort to collect and analyze data on bicycling and walking in all 50 states and at least the 50 largest cities.... Bicycle and pedestrian commuters are generally distributed proportionately among ethnic groups in the U.S... From 1990 to 2007, the percent of commuters who bicycle to work increased from 0.4% to 0.5% while the percent of commuters who walk to work decreased from 3.9% to 2.8%.... While overall numbers of bicycle and pedestrian fatalities are declining, pedestrians and bicyclists are still at a disproportionate risk for being a victim of a traffic fatality."][Request #S10-6-4628]

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**Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety and Mobility in Europe. By Edward L. Fischer and others, American Trade Initiatives. Prepared for the Office of International Programs, Federal Highway Administration. (The Administration, Washington, DC) February 2010. 80 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.international.fhwa.dot.gov/pubs/pl10010/pl10010.pdf>

["The team gathered information on strategies and approaches in the areas of engineering, education, enforcement, encouragement, and evaluation. The team learned that many of the countries studied have established an urban street user hierarchy that gives the highest priority to walking, biking, and public transit. Team recommendations for U.S. implementation include encouraging transportation policy that gives walking, biking, and other nonmotorized modes the highest priority in the road user hierarchy. The team also recommends evaluating innovative strategies and designs to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety for possible U.S. use, institutionalizing traffic safety education that starts at an early age, and developing programs that encourage regular walking and biking."]  
[Request #S10-6-4629]

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## LAND USE

**Overlooked Density: Re-Thinking Transportation Options in Suburbia. By Nico Larco, University of Oregon. (Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium, Portland, Oregon) February 2010. 36 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.otrec.us/project/152>

["Suburban Multifamily Housing has been the largest growing housing market in this country since 1970 and currently accounts for almost one in four units of housing in suburbia. These housing developments can reach densities of 30 to 40 units/acre, and are ubiquitous throughout the country. For primarily transportation-related reasons, this dense housing type is usually located along arterials and adjacent to commercial and retail development, creating a potential model of smart growth in suburbia. While this potential exists, the actual design and development of these areas are often disconnected and uninviting with barriers between uses that minimize linkages and create auto-dominated development. The potential exists to create more integrated, sustainable, and multi-modal development in suburbia, by capitalizing on existing suburban multifamily development."]  
[Request #S10-6-4633]

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## TRANSIT

**New Starts: Lessons Learned for Discretionary Federal Transportation Funding Programs. By Donald J. Emerson and Jeffrey D. Ensor, Parsons Brinckerhoff. (Bipartisan Policy Center, Washington, DC) January 25, 2010. 52 p.**

Full text at:

<http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/New%20Starts%20Paper%20Jan%202010.pdf>

["The New Starts program has broad investment objectives but relatively narrow eligibility. It funds fixed guideway transit projects, such as urban rail and bus rapid transit, including both new lines and extensions. With \$2 billion in funding for FY2010, the New Starts program is the largest federal discretionary transportation program with a multi-year history. Because of its competitive nature, the program features a prescribed planning and project development process combined with a rigorous and comprehensive federal review and rating of proposed projects, through which FTA seeks to minimize risk and evaluate projects in a fair and transparent manner. New Starts projects are subject to more scrutiny and accountability than other federally funded surface transportation projects. The program is criticized for being overly complicated and time consuming, with delays leading to increased costs."]

[Request #S10-6-4635]

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