

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU
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Studies in the News

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

April 1910 “The taking of the thirteenth decennial census of the United States will begin Friday. Tomorrow the forces will be ready for action.... In the long list of questions which every householder and citizen will be required to answer, the census director has added a new one. This will be directed to arriving at the origin of families, requiring definite information as to the mother-tongue.” Los Angeles Times (April 13, 1910) p. III.

April 1910 “Taking the census is nothing short of an art... Uncle Sam’s young men on whom devolves that task of taking the census secure answers to their questions and the way they do it is by using diplomacy, the best of good manners and gentleness, and, mind you, it is not with Russian immigrants and Chinese and Indians that they have all the trouble. Often they meet their greatest difficulties from people who have been in the United States for a hundred years. There are lessons to be learned from the toilers in all walks of life. You can sometimes learn something even from a lawyer. And the lesson to be learned from the census-takers is that it not only pays to be polite and gentle, but it makes smooth life’s rough ways.” Los Angeles Times (April 23, 1910) p. II4.

April 1910 “The census will be completed this week. The progress that has been made so far gives reasonable assurance of an accurate count. There is but one obstacle now to a complete count. Some hotel-keepers, rooming-house proprietors and others refused to answer the questions. Supervisor Bert Farmer wired to Washington for instructions and was told to have warrants sworn out for their arrest immediately.” Los Angeles Times (April 24, 1910) p. II8.

April 1910 “In a final effort to complete the census supervisor Farmer is publishing an appeal for assistance from every citizen.... The postal employees have done splendid work under the supervision of Postmaster Harrison. The carriers alone have turned in nearly 1000 names.... There has been considerable complaint of the work of some of the enumerators. It is evident that a few shirked their duty and only took the name of those who were easily reached.... At the present rate of enumeration, at least 30,000 to 40,000 more names should be secured. If this is done, it is predicted that Los Angeles’ official population will be close to 350,000.” Los Angeles Times (April 29, 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

- 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 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

IMMIGRATION

The Costs of Mass Deportation: Impractical, Expensive, and Ineffective. By Marshall Fitz, Center for American Progress, and others. (The Center, Washington, DC) March 2010. 28 p.

Full text at: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/03/deportation_cost.html

["The core questions of what to do about undocumented immigrants already living in the United States and about those who are sure to seek our shores in the future thwarted political agreement and shut down congressional negotiations in 2007.... Mass deportation of undocumented immigrants is essentially the enforcement-only status quo on steroids. As this paper demonstrates, this option would be prohibitively expensive and trigger profound collateral consequences. Our analysis is comprised of a detailed review of all federal spending to prevent unauthorized immigration and deport undocumented immigrants in FY 2008. It shows that the total cost of mass deportation and continuing border interdiction and interior enforcement efforts would be \$285 billion (in 2008 dollars) over five years."] [Request #S10-7-4703]

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JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Are Teenage Criminals Getting Younger and Younger? Exposing another Urban Legend. By Mike Males and Daniel Macallair, Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. (The Center, San Francisco, California) March 2010. 11 p.

Full text at:

http://www.cjcj.org/files/Are_Tenaage_Criminals_Getting_Younger_and_Younger.pdf

["Stories recite standard myths that teenagers are more criminal and homicidal, committing worse violence at younger ages. But, by the best information available, is this common wisdom true? In fact, for most major offenses, youth arrest rates nationally stand at their lowest level today than at any time in at least four decades, and perhaps ever. Far from becoming more violent, younger ages show the biggest declines in nearly all forms of crime.... Further, teenage offenders are arrested for less violent offenses today than in the past. In 1960, half of all teenage violence offenders were arrested for misdemeanors such as simple assault; in 2008, more than three-fourths."]

[Request #S10-7-4728]

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MENTAL ILLNESS

Mental Health Treatment and Criminal Justice Outcomes. By Richard Frank and Thomas G. McGuire, Harvard Medical School. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) April 2010. 57 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nber.org/tmp/86262-w15858.pdf>

["This paper evaluates the evidence assessing the potential of expansion of mental health services for reducing crime. Mental illness and symptoms of mental illness are highly prevalent among adult and child criminal justice populations. The association between serious mental illness and violence and arrest is particularly strong among individuals who are psychotic and do not adhere to medication. We find higher rates of arrest for those with serious mental illness and with substance abuse. Among youth, even with family fixed effects, antisocial personality scores predict future school problems and arrests. A large body of research tracks mental health and criminal justice outcomes associated with treatments and social policies. Reviews of the cost-effectiveness of treatments for children with behavioral problems, mental health courts, and mandatory outpatient treatment are inconclusive."]

[Request #S10-7-4730]

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PRISONS

Public-Private Partnerships for Corrections in California: Bridging the Gap Between Crisis and Reform. By Leonard Gilroy and others, Reason Foundation. (The Foundation, Los Angeles, California) April 2010.

["California's corrections costs are significantly higher than those in other states in the region, and more than twice as high as the neighboring states of Arizona and Nevada. These costs are even more excessive when one considers how much the state could save by contracting with corrections management companies to operate its correctional facilities.... Public-private partnerships (PPPs) offer a powerful policy option as part of a comprehensive strategy to address California's corrections crisis. Soliciting and implementing PPPs would give policymakers a powerful tool to lower prison operating costs and deliver additional inmate beds to address the severe overcrowding seen today in state prisons."]

[Request #S10-7-4726]

Report. 82 p.

http://reason.org/files/private_prisons_california.pdf

Policy Summary 14 p.

http://reason.org/files/private_prisons_california_policy_summary.pdf

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CULTURE AND SOCIETY

MEDIA

Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries. By Samantha Becker and others, University of Washington. (Institute of Museum and Library Services, Washington, DC) March 2010. 212 p.

Full text at:

http://impact.ischool.washington.edu/documents/OPP4ALL_FinalReport.pdf

["A third of Americans -- about 77 million people -- use public library computers to look for jobs, connect with friends, do their homework and improve their lives. It confirms what public libraries have been saying as they compete for public dollars to expand their services and high-speed Internet access: library use by the general public is widespread and not just among poor people. But researchers found that those living below the federal poverty line -- families of four with a household income of \$22,000 or less -- had the highest use of library computers. Among those households, 44 percent reported using public library computers and Internet access during the past year. Among those aged 14 to 24 in poor households, 61 percent used public library computers and Internet for education purposes." Associated Press (March 25, 2010) 1.][Request #S10-7-4704]

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DEMOGRAPHY

CALIFORNIA

The New Place of Birth Profile of Los Angeles and California Residents in 2010. By Dowell Myers and John Pitkin, University of Southern California. (The University, Los Angeles, California) March 2010. 11 p.

Full text at: <http://www.usc.edu/schools/sppd/research/popdynamics/futures>

["For the first time since the 19th century Gold Rush, California-born residents now make up the majority statewide and in most counties. And experts predict even Los Angeles -- long a mecca for new immigrants -- will become majority California-born by the time the 2010 census is completed. 'Home-grown Californians are the anchor of our economic future,' said Dowell Myers. 'But people are living in the past. They still think we are fighting off hordes of migrants.'... A growing homegrown population could be good news for the state. Latino children of immigrants, for instance, complete more years of schooling, speak better English and earn more income than their parents. But investments in education will be even more critical because the state may no longer be able to import the skilled workforce it needs." Los Angeles Times (April 1, 2010) 1.][Request #S10-7-4733]

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DEMOGRAPHY

CENSUS

Latinos and the 2010 Census: The Foreign Born Are More Positive. By Mark Hugo Lopez and Paul Taylor, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) April 2010. 25 p.

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/121.pdf>

["Foreign-born Hispanics are more positive and knowledgeable about the 2010 U.S. Census than are native-born Hispanics. Overall, seven-in-ten Hispanics say the census is good for the Hispanic community. However, foreign-born Hispanics are more likely than native-born Hispanics to feel this way -- 80% versus 57%. Foreign-born Hispanics are also more likely than native-born Hispanics to correctly say the census cannot be used to determine whether or not someone is in the country legally. And they are more inclined than the native born to trust the Census Bureau to keep their personal information confidential.... Among those who say they have recently seen messages encouraging participation, views of the census are more positive; knowledge of the census and its uses is greater; and a higher share say they definitely plan to send in their census forms."][Request #S10-7-4732]

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ECONOMY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A New Paradigm for Economic Development: How Higher Education Institutions Are Working to Revitalize Their Regional and State Economies. By David F. Shaffer and David J. Wright, the Rockefeller Institute of Government. (The Institute, Albany, New York) March 2010. 74 p.

Full text at: http://rockinst.org/pdf/education/2010-03-18-A_New_Paradigm.pdf

["In states across America, higher education institutions and systems are working to become key drivers of economic development and community revitalization. They are: 1) Putting their research power to work by developing new ideas that will strengthen the country's competitive edge in the new economy -- and then by helping to deploy those innovations into commercial use; 2) Providing a wide range of knowledge-focused services to businesses and other employers, including customized job-training programs, hands-on counseling, technical help, and management assistance; 3) Embracing a role in the cultural, social, and educational revitalization of their home communities; and 4) most fundamentally, educating people to succeed in the innovation age. Together, these trends suggest a new paradigm for economic development programs."][Request #S10-7-4734]

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Unfair China Trade Costs Local Jobs: 2.4 Million Jobs Lost, Thousands Displaced in Every U.S. Congressional District. By Robert E. Scott, Economic Policy Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) March 23, 2010. 22 p.

Full text at: http://epi.3cdn.net/91b2eeeffce66c1a10_v5m6beqhi.pdf

["California is being hurt in several ways. A flood of imports and market barriers make it difficult for California companies to export and make it difficult for companies to grow.... California was among the nation's hardest hit by a China trade gap that ballooned from \$84 billion in 2001 to \$270 billion in 2008 on cheaply made imports from computers to audio-visual equipment. The country's three hardest-hit congressional districts were in the technology-rich Silicon Valley, where some 65,400 jobs were lost. Eight of the 20 most hard hit nationwide were in California. The study links U.S. and California job losses to Chinese trade efforts -- an artificially low yuan to the dollar, closed markets to foreign products, large government subsidies to fund exporting -- and calls on Washington to authorize stiff tariffs to level the playing field." Sacramento Bee (March 24, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-7-4699]

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LOS ANGELES

2010-2011 Economic Forecast and Industry Outlook for California & Southern California Including the National & International Setting. By Jack Kyser and others, Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation. (The Corporation, Los Angeles, California) February 2010. 96 p.

Full text at: <http://www.laedc.org/reports/Forecast-2010-02.pdf>

["Southern California is headed for a gradual economic recovery in 2010 and 2011, along with the rest of the state and the country. Unemployment will remain elevated, but the entertainment, international trade and tourism sectors will push growth regionally.... California's housing market also will continue to improve. Permits for new homes are expected to rise, but nowhere near the levels seen during the housing boom.... Personal income, which declined 1.5% in L.A. County last year, is projected to increase 1.8% in 2010 and 3.8% in 2011. That should help the recovery of the retail sector. But manufacturing, traditionally a source of solid jobs with benefits, will stay distressed as it battles outsourcing and overseas production." Los Angeles Times (February 17, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-7-4570]

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NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Grassroots Civil Society: The Scope and Dimensions of Small Public Charities.
By Elizabeth T. Boris and Katie L. Roeger, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) February 2010. 7 p.

Full text at:

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412054_grassroots_civil_society.pdf

["This report discusses small organizations below the radar screen in most analyses of the nonprofit sector. Research and media reports usually focus on large nonprofits with household names. However, smaller organizations engage and support communities in myriad activities and provide platforms for social interaction. They include scholarship funds, sports teams and clubs, animal protection groups, community service clubs, and many more. This report, based on 2007 Form 990 data from the National Center for Charitable Statistics, summarizes research on small public charities -- those reporting more than \$25,000 in gross receipts and less than \$100,000 in revenues, expenses, and assets."]

[Request #S10-7-4737]

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EDUCATION

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Behind the Curtain: Assessing the Case for National Curriculum Standards. By **Neal McCluskey, Center for Educational Freedom. (Cato Institute, Washington, DC) February 17, 2010. 28 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa661.pdf>

["The argument for national curriculum standards sounds simple: set high standards, make all schools meet them, and watch American students achieve at high levels.... What if the research were to clearly show that having national standards leads to superior performance on international tests? Still, there would not be compelling evidence that national standards produce optimal outcomes; economic growth, as well as personal fulfillment, could very well require an education focused on much more than just high test scores. It appears that the route to successful education goes in the opposite direction of national standards; it goes toward universal school choice."]

[Request #S10-7-4575]

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Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies and Science: Draft. AND: Common Core State Standards for Mathematics: Draft. By the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers. (The Center, Washington, DC) March 2010. Various pagings.

Full text at: <http://www.corestandards.org/Standards/K12/>

["California got its first glimpse of draft common-core standards in math and English language arts that, sight-unseen, the Legislature has put the state on a path to adopting this summer. Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell immediately praised the 'rigorous' draft standards as 'well organized to give a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn ... to succeed in both college and the workforce.' And a number of national organizations endorsed them. But others expressed caution and criticism, particularly about some of the math standards and sequence of learning them.... The initiative was launched last year out of recognition that many states' standards are weak, and some states -- though not California -- had lowered their standards to escape penalties under the No Child Left Behind Law." Educated Guess (March 11, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-7-4680]

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Review of the Draft K-12 Common Core Standards. By Sheila Byrd Carmichael and others. (The Thomas B. Fordham Institute, Washington, DC) March 2010. 45 p.

Full text at: http://edexcellence.net/index.cfm/news_review-of-the-draft-k-12-common-core-standards1

["American education approached a possible turning point, when the National Governors Association and Council of Chief State School Officers released drafts of proposed new academic standards in English language arts and math for kindergarten through high school. Already the object of much interest -- and some controversy -- these are standards that, once revised and finalized, will be candidates for adoption by individual states in place of those they're now using.... Assuming this draft only improves in the process of revision, the Common Core represents a rare opportunity for American K-12 education to re-boot. A chance to set forth, across state lines, a clear, ambitious, and actionable depiction of the essential skills, competencies, and knowledge that our young people should acquire in school and possess by the time they graduate."]
[Request #S10-7-4764]

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COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Terms of Engagement: Men of Color Discuss Their Experiences in Community College. By Alissa Gardenhire-Crooks and others, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) March 2010.

["This study draws on the experiences of 87 African-American, Hispanic, and Native American men who were enrolled in developmental math courses at four institutions to find out more about what affects the success of men of color in community college.... The men shared common motivations for enrolling in college. Those most frequently cited were to increase their earning power and to be a role model for their children.... These men identified low expectations and negative stereotypes based on their race, ethnicity, and gender as salient elements of their experiences in their high schools, communities, and sometimes on their college campuses.... The report concludes with some recommendations for how community colleges can ensure that these students receive the benefits of supports that can help them succeed."][Request #S10-7-4761]

Report. 95 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/547/full.pdf>

Executive Summary. 13 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/547/execsum.pdf>

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EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

8th Annual Benefits Trends: Findings from the National Survey of Employers and Employees. By the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. (The Company, New York, New York) 2010. 62 p.

Full text at: <http://www.metlife.com/assets/institutional/services/insights-and-tools/ebts/Employee-Benefits-Trends-Study.pdf>

["The study found that employers have mostly held the line on core benefits, such as life insurance, and matching workers' 401(k) plan contributions despite the worst economic turbulence in decades. Only 18 percent of surveyed companies with more than 1,000 employees reduced any benefits from late 2008 to late 2009, while 19 percent reduced or suspended 401(k) matches. Retaining those benefits comes at a price for many employees, however; they're being asked to do more to justify their benefits. Forty percent of employees surveyed said their workload had increased in the past 12 months. Employers did not dispute that.... Despite the heavier workload, workers indicated more satisfaction with their benefits than at any time since 2007." Associated Press (April 12, 2010) 1.][Request #S10-7-4770]

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IMMIGRATION

Immigrant Legalization: Assessing the Labor Market Effects. By Laura E. Hill and others, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) April 2010. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=869>

["Our research suggests ... that legalizing most currently unauthorized immigrants would not lead to dramatic changes in the labor market, either for unauthorized immigrants or for native workers,' the report concludes. 'We also find little evidence to support the view that such a step would have significant effects on the broader economy, particularly on tax revenues or public assistance programs.' With illegal immigrants constituting about 10 percent of California's workforce, jobs skills are a more important factor in their economic progression than their immigration status. And it's also not likely that legalization would have a major impact, positive or negative, on local and state government finances." Sacramento Bee (April 7, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-7-4735]

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SCIENTISTS & ENGINEERS

Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. By Catherine Hill and others, American Association of University Women. (The Association, Washington, DC) February 2010. 134 p.

Full text at: <http://www.aauw.org/research/upload/whysofew.pdf>

["The number of women in science and engineering is growing, yet men continue to outnumber women, especially at the upper levels of these professions. In elementary, middle, and high school, girls and boys take math and science courses in roughly equal numbers, and about as many girls as boys leave high school prepared to pursue science and engineering majors in college. Yet fewer women than men pursue these majors. Among first-year college students, women are much less likely than men to say that they intend to major in science, technology, engineering, or math. By graduation, men outnumber women in nearly every science and engineering field, with women earning only 20 percent of bachelor's degrees. Women's representation in science and engineering declines further at the graduate level and yet again in the transition to the workplace."]

[Request #S10-7-4706]

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ENERGY

ENERGY POLICY

Forging the Climate Consensus: Expanding Production from America's Domestic Energy Resources. By the National Commission on Energy Policy. (Bipartisan Policy Center, Washington, DC) March 2010. 20 p.

Full text at:

<http://bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/NCEP%20America's%20Domestic%20Energy%20Resources.pdf>

["Provisions aimed at expanding domestic energy production and diversifying the array of energy options available to U.S. consumers and businesses during the transition to a low-carbon economy are likely to play an important role in this debate and in winning bipartisan support for final legislation.... Several of the proposals discussed here focus on natural gas, oil, and nuclear power -- three energy sources that already play a large role in meeting our nation's energy needs and that are closely linked to long-standing energy dependence and national security concerns. In addition, we discuss the need for accelerated progress in developing carbon capture and storage.... The Commission does not, in this paper, advance any new recommendations specifically targeted to renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies."]

[Request #S10-7-4745]

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WIND POWER

Great Expectations: U.S. Wind Energy Development. By the Governors' Wind Energy Coalition. (The Coalition, Arlington, Virginia) March 2010. 16 p.

Full text at: http://www.governorswindenergycoalition.org/assets/files/10GWEC-003_GreatExp_324_lores.pdf

["Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and 28 other governors are calling for a national standard for renewable power that they believe could help spur job growth and economic development and make the U.S. less dependent on foreign fuel. The lack of consistent national regulations and a complicated jumble of state standards are pushing investments abroad. The report also recommended that utilities be required to obtain at least 10% of their electricity from alternative sources such as wind and solar by 2012. They called for an expanded interstate transmission system with major high-voltage lines that would have a wider reach than a fragmented network of smaller lines. A U.S. policy could untangle the web of more localized standards, they said." Los Angeles Times (March 17, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-7-4710]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Updated Economic Analysis of California's Climate Change Scoping Plan. By the California Air Resources Board. (The Board, Sacramento, California) March 24, 2010. 118 p.

Full text at: www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/economics-sp/updated-analysis/updated_sp_analysis.pdf

["New regulations would boost solar, wind and other renewable power, cut the carbon intensity of gasoline, promote electric cars, discourage sprawl and wedge energy-saving measures into home-building, manufacturing and other sectors of the economy.... California's gross state product will grow to \$2.5 trillion over the next decade, only 0.2% less than it would without the climate law. Jobs will grow to 18.4 million -- 0.1% more than without the law. Some industries, such as fossil-fuel-burning utilities, mining and energy-intensive manufacturing, could be hard hit under new climate rules. Others more allied with a green economy are expected to prosper, and small business, particularly in labor-intensive and service-oriented sectors, will bear a less-than-proportional share of the direct economic costs of implementing AB 32." Los Angeles Times (March 24, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-7-4702]

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TAKINGS

After "Kelo": Political Rhetoric and Policy Responses. By Harvey M. Jacobs, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Ellen M. Bassett, Portland State University. (Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, Massachusetts) April 2010. 7 p.

Full text at: https://www.lincolnst.edu/pubs/dl/1773_992_4%20Kelo.pdf

["Fighting to save her 'little pink house,' Susette Kelo became the spokesperson for the opposition to New London's proposed action. Kelo and her co-litigants argued that the type of eminent domain proposed by the city was a misreading of the original intent of the U.S. Constitution's takings clause.... The reasoning and final decision in Kelo was unsurprising. On a base of strong legal and historical analysis, the majority of the court showed why the action by the City of New London was acceptable.... Beginning in 2007, we began a two-year research project on the impact of these state-based laws. Planners, public sector lawyers, and redevelopment officials were already expressing strong concern about the constraints these new state laws could have on normal planning practice. Our question was, 'Would these laws impact planning, and if so, how?'"

[Request #S10-7-4766]

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WATER RESOURCES

Liquid Assets: Improving Management of the State's Groundwater Resources. By Catherine Freeman, California Legislative Analyst's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) March 24, 2010. 24 p.

Full text at:

http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2010/rsrc/groundwater/groundwater_032410.pdf

["Groundwater management is one of the state's most critical liquid assets -- a key component of both local and statewide efforts to better manage water supply and water quality in the state.... In our view, reevaluating how groundwater is managed is necessary if it is to achieve its full potential as a reliable source of water. In this report, we (1) provide more background on the state's current approach to groundwater management; (2) address current issues with groundwater management, including the impact of water quality on water supply; (3) address the disconnect between the law and science of groundwater; and (4) review other states' approaches to groundwater management. We also present the Legislature with a series of actions that would be phased in over a period of time to address current and emerging groundwater management issues."]

[Request #S10-7-4767]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Going For Broke: Reforming California's Public Employee Pension Systems. By Howard Bornstein and others, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. (The Institute, Palo Alto, California) April 2010. 8 p.

Full text at: http://www.stanford.edu/group/siepr/cgi-bin/siepr/?q=/system/files/shared/GoingforBroke_pb.pdf

["The shortfall facing California's public pension systems could reach more than half a trillion dollars over the next decade and a half. The current recession has cost the three systems -- for the state's public employees, schoolteachers and University of California workers -- \$109.7 billion in lost investment value. The report says the systems' basic growth assumptions are too rosy.... The report's proposed changes echo the governor's, many of which are politically difficult: reducing benefits for new employees, raising annual contributions to ward off shortfalls and shifting workers to a partial 401k system. High pension costs also are a growing concern for California's cities and counties, as well as for other states." San Jose Mercury News (April 5, 2010) 1.][Request #S10-7-4746]

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State and Local Government Retiree Health Benefits: Liabilities Are Largely Unfunded, but Some Governments Are Taking Action. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) November 2009. 49 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d1061.pdf>

["A report predicts that state and local government budget problems in the decades ahead will 'largely be driven' by health care costs. During the next four decades, the GAO projects that the number of state and local government retirees throughout the nation will grow from 3 million to 5.1 million at an annual average rate of 1.3 percent. However, the cost of retiree health benefits is projected to grow more quickly, at an annual rate of 6.7 percent over that same period. The cost of keeping promises to provide retiree health care was a long-ignored form of government debt. But that changed in 2004 with a new rule requiring state and local governments to report their debt or 'unfunded liability' for retiree health care." Capitol Weekly (February 18, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-7-4749]

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STATE BUDGET

The Next California Budget: Buying Results Citizens Want at a Price They Are Willing to Pay. By David Osborne, Public Strategies Group. (Reason Foundation, Los Angeles, California) March 2010. 36 p.

Full text at: http://reason.org/files/california_budget_david_osborne.pdf

["Regardless of how Californians feel about the latest budget, most would agree that somehow, some way, the state's leaders must do it differently next year. Californians are tired of watching their leaders debate how much to spend on X vs. Y, with no attention to the results these expenditures produce or the long-term liabilities they create for the state.... This paper argues for an alternate form of fiscal discipline, known as Budgeting for Outcomes. It would help the governor and/or legislature build the budget in a way that delivers the results citizens want at a price they are willing to pay. Budgeting for Outcomes has already proven its value in Washington State, Iowa and more than a dozen other states, cities, counties and school districts. It combines strategic planning, zero-based budgeting and performance budgeting in a workable, common-sense package."]
[Request #S10-7-4747]

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TAXES

Assessing the Theory and Practice of Land Value Taxation. By Richard F. Dye and Richard W. England, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. (The Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts) February 2010. 36 p.

Full text at:

https://www.lincolninst.edu/pubs/dl/1760_983_Assessing%20the%20Theory%20and%20Practice%20of%20Land%20Value%20Taxation.pdf

["The land value tax is a variant of the property tax that imposes a higher tax rate on land than on improvements, or taxes only the land value. Many other types of changes in property tax policy, such as assessment freezes or limitations, have undesirable side effects, including unequal treatment of similarly situated taxpayers and distortion of economic incentives. Land value taxation would enhance both the fairness and the efficiency of the property tax. Raising the tax rate on land has few undesirable effects, while lowering the rate on improvements has many benefits. Land is effectively in fixed supply, so an increase in the tax rate on land value will raise revenue without distorting the incentives for owners to invest in and make use of their land. By contrast, the part of the property tax that falls on structures or other improvements discourages investment."][Request #S10-7-4615]

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HEALTH

CAREGIVERS

Dangerous Caregivers: State Failed to Cross-Check Backgrounds, Exposing Elderly to Abusive Workers. By John Hill, California Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes. (The Office, Sacramento, California) March 18, 2010. 32 p.

Full text at:

<http://www3.senate.ca.gov/deployedfiles/vcm2007/senoversight/docs/dangerouscaregiversreport1.pdf>

["In 2006, the Legislature passed a law that required the Department of Social Services to maintain a centralized database of workers sanctioned by administrative actions such as license revocations.... Four years later, the database does not exist. In later years, as the state's budget deteriorated, Social Services did not consider seeking money for the centralized database, estimated to cost 'in excess of \$500,000.' Nor did it inform the Legislature that the database would not be built ... The investigation by the Office of Oversight and Outcomes found that nurse assistants stripped of their certifications have sought work as caregivers, and that the system of background checking, with its focus on criminal history, did not detect their earlier misconduct."][Request #S10-7-4715]

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HOSPITALS

The Financial Health of California's Critical Access Hospitals. By Shelley Oberlin, Kurt Salmon Associates, and others. Prepared for California HealthCare Foundation. (The Foundation, Oakland, California) February 2010. 26 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.chcf.org/~media/Files/PDF/F/FinancialHealthCriticalAccessHospitals.pdf>

[“California's critical access hospitals (CAHs) are typically located in remote, rural parts of the state and frequently serve as the only provider of health care services in a community. Given their small size -- no more than 25 acute care beds -- the financial viability of CAHs can be affected by health care market changes such as shifts in population and demographics, payer mix, and workforce shortages.... The authors identified five key factors that are strong determinants of financial performance for California CAHs: Geographic location, Scale and scope of services, Payer mix, Partnerships and support, and Leadership and managerial experience. The biggest challenges for California's CAHs are recruitment and retention of physicians, access to capital, and demographic issues in rural areas such as high unemployment and lack of health insurance.”]

[Request #S10-7-4717]

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Preventable Harm: California Fails to Follow Through With Patient Safety Laws. By Consumers Union. (The Union, Austin, Texas) March 2010. 10 p.

Full text at: www.safepatientproject.org/CAPatientSafetyReportFinal_2.pdf

[“The California Department of Public Health has consistently failed to enforce new laws designed to reduce medical errors and infections at California hospitals. The report, which focuses on a series of patient safety laws passed in 2006 and 2008, says the state public health department has not held hospitals accountable for complying with the laws, which include requirements to make certain medical errors public among other safety measures.... The report commended the department for collecting information on medical errors, fining hospitals when appropriate and reporting that information on the Internet. But the group said much of the information required by law to be made public was not readily accessible and questioned whether the department is enforcing many of the laws.” San Francisco Chronicle (March 18, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-7-4714]

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PHYSICIANS

What if All Physician Services Were Paid Under the Medicare Fee Schedule?: An Analysis Using Medical Group Management Association Data. By Robert Berenson, the Urban Institute, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) March 2010. 33 p.

Full text at: www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412051_physician_service.pdf

["It is possible to simulate physician compensation as if all physician services were paid under the Medicare Fee Schedule and to compare the results with the actual compensation that physicians report.... This analysis confirms that there are substantial differences in the actual hourly and annual compensation across specialties, with a number of specialties exhibiting compensation ratios exceeding 2:1 when compared to family medicine. Under simulated Medicare 15 compensation, the compensation ratios across specialties are narrowed very little overall ... The non-surgical, procedural specialties continue to do relatively better under the Medicare Fee Schedule than under all-payer reimbursements. In contrast, surgical specialties do relatively less well under the Medicare Fee Schedule, although their compensation remains substantially greater than the primary care benchmark."][Request #S10-7-4719]

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HOUSING

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Penny Wise, Pound Foolish: New Measures of Housing + Transportation Affordability. By the Center for Neighborhood Technology. (The Center, Chicago, Illinois) March 2010. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cnt.org/repository/pwptf.pdf>

["Our society has enabled and encouraged growth in places where low land costs deliver relatively inexpensive housing but where sprawling, single-use development adds significantly to the cost of carrying out the daily tasks of getting to work or school, running errands and enjoying an evening out. This release of these data for 337 metro regions is momentous because it allows people to preview transportation costs for 161,600 neighborhoods in the United States and provides proof that particular patterns of development can significantly reduce household travel costs. Compact, walkable, mixed-use communities with convenient access to public transit and employment centers may initially appear expensive because of higher housing costs. But after applying the H+T Index, these places can often make for more affordable living than less dense exurban communities."]
[Request #S10-7-4778]

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HOME OWNERSHIP

Homeownership Done Right: What Experience and Research Teaches Us. By David Abromowitz and Janneke Ratcliffe, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) April 2010. 17 p.

Full text at:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/pdf/homeownership_done_right.pdf

["In the wake of the U.S. housing crisis that began in 2007 and still reverberates across the country today, as many as 12 million families may lose their homes to foreclosure. Our national homeownership rate could well drop from a high of over 69 percent in 2004 to below 64 percent by the time we are done, which would be the lowest rate since 1968. All this is happening while nearly 100 million Americans live in households spending more than 30 percent -- and many more than 50 percent -- of their incomes on shelter. This is hardly a path to encourage what for many is part and parcel of the American Dream. Nor need it be. Evidence abounds that lower-income homeowners benefit from well-designed affordable homeownership programs, many of which are weathering the foreclosure crisis reasonably well."]

[Request #S10-7-4751]

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HUMAN SERVICES

ELDERLY

Demographics of Homelessness Series: The Rising Elderly Population. By M. William Sermons and Meghan Henry, National Alliance to End Homelessness. (The Alliance, Washington, DC) April 2010. 8 p.

Full text at: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2698>

["New national research validates an unfortunate trend that homeless advocates already see starting to play out: With the huge baby boom generation gradually entering old age, experts are braced for a new population of homeless seniors. If current homeless trends remain true, the nation's population of senior homeless will increase by 33 percent in a decade's time -- and by 50 percent in 2050.... What's unexpected, is that hard economic times have created a new sense of vulnerability among seniors living close to the poverty line. The top cause of senior homelessness is job loss." Sacramento Bee (April 6, 2010) 1.]

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IMMIGRATION

The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on Child Welfare. By Wendy Cervantes and Yali Lincroft, First Focus. (First Focus, Washington, DC) March 2010. 12 p.

Full text at: <http://www.firstfocus.net/Download/Enforcement4.7.pdf>

["While children of immigrants have a lot at stake in the discussions surrounding U.S. immigration policy, their interests remain largely ignored in the debate. For instance, little consideration is given to the impact of immigration enforcement on the 5.5 million children, the vast majority of whom are native-born U.S. citizens, living with at least one undocumented parent. Similarly overlooked are the significant challenges experienced by public child welfare agencies that encounter children separated from their parents due to immigration enforcement measures.... This policy brief examines the intersection of immigration enforcement and child welfare and the difficulties facing immigrant families caught between the two systems."]

[Request #S10-7-4775]

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POVERTY

Asset Poverty and Debt Among Families with Children. By Yumiko Aratani and Michelle Chau, National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) February 2010. 12 p.

Full text at: http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_918.pdf

["Unlike labor market earnings, income generated from assets provides a cushion for families in case of job loss, illness, death of a parent, or even natural disaster. This cushion may be especially important for the working poor, whose economic lives can be severely impacted by even short periods of unemployment. Asset ownership can also have long-term consequences for children.... As asset holdings and debt can impact the well-being of children, in this report we examine the economic security of families with children based on family asset holdings and debt. First, we explore the concept of asset poverty and estimate the proportion of families who are asset poor, followed by the examination of debt and financial assets of families with children. The report concludes with policy implications and recommendations to promote the financial security of families with children."]

[Request #S10-7-4590]

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Toward Reduced Poverty Across Generations: Early Findings from New York City's Conditional Cash Transfer Program. By James Riccio and others, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) March 2010. 398 p.

Full text at: <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/549/overview.html>

["In 2007, New York City's Center for Economic Opportunity launched Opportunity NYC–Family Rewards, an experimental, privately funded, conditional cash transfer (CCT) program to help families break the cycle of poverty. CCT programs offer cash assistance to reduce immediate hardship, but condition these transfers on families' efforts to build up their 'human capital,' often by developing the education and skills that may reduce their poverty over the longer term.... Despite initial challenges in understanding the program's large number of incentives and related payment requirements, nearly all families eventually earned rewards -- more than \$6,000, on average, over the first two years. In addition, effects from Family Rewards varied across a wide range of outcome measures."]
[Request #S10-7-4754]

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TRANSPORTATION

AUTOMOBILES

Transitions to Alternative Transportation Technologies: Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles. By the Committee on Assessment of Resource Needs for Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Technologies, National Research Council. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) 2010.

["This report builds on a 2008 National Research Council report on hydrogen fuel cell vehicles (HFCVs). The present report; 1) Reviews the current and projected technology status of PHEVs; 2) Considers the factors that will affect how rapidly PHEVs could enter the marketplace, including the interface with the electric transmission and distribution system; 3) Determines a maximum practical penetration rate for PHEVs consistent with the time frame and factors considered in the 2008 Hydrogen Report; and 4) Incorporates PHEVs into the models used in the hydrogen study to estimate the costs and impacts on petroleum consumption and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions."][Request #S10-7-4632]

Book. 130 p.

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12826&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+02-16-2010&utm_content=Customer&utm_term

Executive Summary. 29 p.

http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12826&type=pdfxsum

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HIGH-SPEED RAIL

Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report for the San Francisco to San Jose Section. AND: Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report for the Merced to Fresno Section. By the California High-Speed Rail Authority. (The Authority, Sacramento, California) April 2010.

["Since voters backed a \$9.95 billion bond to fund California's high-speed rail system nearly two years ago, critics have questioned the lack of details while backers have wondered what progress is being made.... The Authority released a report revealing some details about studies on the location of a San Francisco station and where high-speed trains will travel -- at ground level, in a trench or tunnel, or atop an elevated structure -- as they make their way down the Peninsula. But no firm decisions are expected.... Similar information will be released about the stretch of the system between Merced and Fresno, which will include the system's maintenance facility and possibly a test track." San Francisco Chronicle (April 5, 2010) 1.][Request #S10-7-4783]

San Francisco to San Jose. 135 p.

http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/images/chsr/20100408092523_SF-SJ%20Preliminary%20Alternatives%20Analysis%20Report.pdf

Merced to Fresno. 63 p.

http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/images/chsr/20100408091943_Merced-Fresno%20Preliminary%20AA%20Report.pdf

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TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Metropolitan Transportation Planning. By William J. Mallett, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) February 3, 2010. 22 p.

Full text at: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R41068_20100203.pdf

["Federal law requires state and local governments to designate a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) in each urbanized area with a population of 50,000 or more to help plan surface transportation infrastructure and services. There are currently 381 MPOs nationwide. Despite some strengthening of their authority over the years, MPOs have generally remained subordinate to state departments of transportation in the planning and selecting ('programming') of projects using federal surface transportation funds. Moreover, it can be argued that at the metropolitan level MPOs are subordinate to local governments that own and operate many elements of the transportation system, and also control land use planning and zoning."][Request #S10-7-4631]

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Assessing Mechanisms for Integrating Transportation-Related Greenhouse Gas Reduction Objectives into Transportation Decision Making. By Michael Grant and others, ICF International. Prepared for the Transportation Research Board. (The Board, Washington, DC) January 2010. 100 p.

Full text at: http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_w152.pdf

["New requirements for transportation agencies to integrate greenhouse gas (GHG) considerations into transportation decision making are currently being proposed and debated at both the national and state levels.... The objective of this project was to provide a factual basis for judging the merits of alternative methods that state departments of transportation and metropolitan planning organizations can use for managing GHG emissions from transportation. The project was undertaken to help policy makers to understand (a) how these alternative approaches to GHG emissions would affect states and metropolitan areas, (b) what approaches may be most effective for evaluating mobile-source GHG emission-management strategies, and (c) what particular tools are available to support implementation of these alternative approaches."]
[Request #S10-7-4781]

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