



## Studies in the News

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***Mitchell Sims, et al. v. Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, et al. California Court of Appeal, 1<sup>st</sup> Dist. A135290. May 30, 2013.***

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/opinions/documents/A135290.PDF>

The California Appellate Court upheld the Marin County Superior Court's decision that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) "substantially failed to comply' with mandatory procedural requirements of the APA [Administrative Procedure Act]" when administering a lethal injection for the death penalty. "The judgment ... declares that the CDCR's injection protocol ... is invalid for substantial failure to comply with the requirements of the APA, and permanently enjoins the CDCR from carrying out the execution of any condemned inmate by lethal injection unless and until new regulations governing lethal injection are promulgated in compliance with the APA."

## ECONOMY

***Cyberstates 2013: The Definitive State-by-State Analysis of the U.S. Tech Industry.* By Matthew Kazmierczak. TechAmerica Foundation. May 2013. 118 p.  
(Available to California state government employees; request at the California State Library)**

“The 15<sup>th</sup> annual edition ... examines the size and scope of the tech industry in terms of jobs, wages, and other factors, nationally and in all 50 states.... The report was created to quantify the size and scope of the nation’s technology industry at a national and state level and to allow true apples-to-apples comparison among the cyberstates using the same methodology and definition.... [It] provides one-page ‘snapshots’ of the electronics and information technology industry for each state ... [and] provides key data points for the tech industry covering trends and comparisons of employment and wages.... The state-by-state data reveals 39 cyberstates added tech jobs in 2012, with the largest gains in California (+17,700).”

## EDUCATION

***Working Hard, Left Behind: Education as a Pathway from Poverty to Prosperity for Working Californians.* By Kim H. Tran, et al. Campaign for College Opportunity. May 2013. 40 p.  
[http://www.collegecampaign.org/index.php/download\\_file/view/853/91/](http://www.collegecampaign.org/index.php/download_file/view/853/91/)**

“More than a third of California’s working families are considered low-income, earning less than \$45,397 a year for a family of four in 2011. Additionally, California has the largest number of adults without a high school diploma or equivalent in the country.... The challenge facing California today is how to educate and train the state’s undereducated and under-skilled populace in order to meet the growing demand for highly educated workers.... This report identifies the extent and composition of California’s working low-income families and the opportunities, or lack thereof, that exist in the state to help move working low-income families to greater economic security through higher education.”

***Public Education Finances: 2011.* U.S. Census Bureau. May 2013. 63 p.  
<http://www2.census.gov/govs/school/11f33pub.pdf>**

The Census Bureau’s annual survey of public elementary and secondary schools finds that California has the highest school system revenue in the nation (\$68.5 billion), but that the state ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in per pupil spending (\$11,048), which is lower than the U.S. average of \$12,411 per pupil. “This report contains financial statistics relating to public elementary-secondary education. It includes national and state financial aggregates and displays data for the largest 100 school systems by enrollment in the United States.”

## EMPLOYMENT

***Breadwinner Moms: Mothers Are the Sole or Primary Provider in Four-in-Ten Households with Children; Public Conflicted about the Growing Trend.* By Wendy Wang, et al. Pew Social and Demographic Trends. May 2013. 29 p.  
<http://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/704715/pew-report-breadwinner-moms.pdf>**

“A record 40% of all households with children under the age of 18 include mothers who are either the sole or primary source of income for the family.... These ‘breadwinner moms’ are made up of two very different groups: 5.1 million (37%) are married mothers who have a higher income than their husbands, and 8.6 million (63%) are single mothers.... The groups differ in other ways as well. Compared with all mothers with children under age 18, married mothers who out-earn their husbands are slightly older,

disproportionally white and college educated. Single mothers, by contrast, are younger, more likely to be black or Hispanic, and less likely to have a college degree.”

## ENVIRONMENT

***Beyond Crisis: Recapturing Excellence in California’s State Park System.***  
Little Hoover Commission. Mar. 2013. 122 p.  
<http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/215/report215.html>

Currently, California’s state parks suffer from a number of issues that threaten the long-term vitality of the State Park system: (1) increases in revenue have failed to offset cuts in taxpayer support; (2) centralized organization of the park system is expensive and ignores recent trends that park management uses elsewhere in the U.S.; (3) staffing practices lack flexibility; and (4) relationships with strategic partners and park supporters have significantly deteriorated. The report recommends the development of a new management model focused on shared management of park resources, seeking out innovations, increasing transparency, and a renewed emphasis on developing new revenues.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Voters with Disabilities: Challenges to Voting Accessibility.*** By Barbera Bovberg.  
Government Accountability Office. GAO-13-538SP. Apr. 23, 2013. 21 p.  
<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/654099.pdf>

The GAO’s 2008 survey of polling places shows signs of improvement for disabled voter access. In 2008, based upon GAO’s survey of polling places, it is estimated that 27% of polling places had no potential impediments in the path from the parking to the voting area – up from 16% in 2000. The improvements are due to a number of changes: 43 states have set accessibility standards; 45% offered curbside voting; and some states are designating long-term care facilities as Election Day polling places.

## HEALTH

***Food Safety and Inspection Service – Inspection and Enforcement Activities at Swine Slaughter Plants.*** Department of Agriculture Office of the Inspector General. Audit Report 24601-0001-41. May 2013. 50 p.  
<http://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/24601-0001-41.pdf>

The Office of the Inspector General found numerous safety and cleanliness violations in swine slaughter plants, suggesting the Food and Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) is not adequately inspecting plants or enforcing regulations. “In reviewing the database of the 44,128 NRs [Noncompliance Records] and other enforcement actions, we determined that FSIS’ enforcement policies do not deter swine slaughter plants from repeating the same food safety violations.” The report recommends, among other things, that FSIS develop strategies to take progressively stronger enforcement action against repeat violators, develop procedures, and standardize plant suspension efforts.

**“Immigrants Contributed an Estimated \$115.2 Billion More to the Medicare Trust Fund Than They Took Out in 2002-09.”** By Leah Zallman, et al. *Health Affairs*, vol. 32 no. 5 (May 2013). 9 p.  
<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/early/2013/05/20/hlthaff.2012.1223>

“In 2009 immigrants made 14.7% of [Medicare] Trust Fund contributions but accounted for only 7.9% of its expenditures – a net surplus of \$13.8 billion. In contrast, U.S.-born people generated a \$30.9 billion deficit. Immigrants generated surpluses of \$11.1–\$17.2 billion per year between 2002 and 2009, resulting in a cumulative surplus of \$115.2 billion. Most of the surplus from immigrants was contributed by

noncitizens and was a result of the high proportion of working-age taxpayers in this group. Policies that restrict immigration may deplete Medicare's financial resources."

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***America's Health Rankings.*** United Health Foundation.

<http://www.americashealthrankings.org/rankings>

Want to see how all states stack up on health measures such as obesity, diabetes, smoking and physical inactivity? United Health Foundation maintains health statistics on the 50 states. An interactive map allows the user to compare states and to analyze trends with longitudinal data.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Transportation Worker Identification Credential: Card Reader Pilot Results Are Unreliable; Security Benefits Should Be Reassessed.*** Government Accountability Office. GAO-13-198. May 2013.

Report. 72 p.: <http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/654431.pdf>

Testimony. 12 p.: <http://gao.gov/assets/660/654447.pdf>

The Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program "requires maritime workers to complete background checks and obtain biometric identification cards to gain unescorted access to secure areas of Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA)-regulated entities. TSA conducted a pilot program to test the use of TWICs with biometric card readers, in part to inform the development of a regulation on using TWICs with card readers." GAO reviewed the pilot test and found "that the test's results were incomplete, inaccurate, and unreliable for informing Congress and for developing a regulation (rule) about the readers. Challenges related to pilot planning, data collection, and reporting affected the completeness, accuracy, and reliability of the results. These issues call into question the program's premise and effectiveness in enhancing security."

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