

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU  
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Studies in the News**

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**California -- One Hundred Years Ago**

**December 1908.** “The Citizens’ Relief Committee, appointed at the time of the San Francisco earthquake, has completed its labors. The balance now in the banks will be sufficient to afford aid to cases already provided for, but nothing additional remains to be disbursed.... Subscriptions totaled about \$242,000, and the Executive Committee reported January 3, 1908 that approximately \$17,500 was on hand in the banks... Last year, Christmas baskets were distributed to recipients of the charity fund, but nothing can be given next week. By this time all worthy cases have been investigated and the idle ones have been told to get work.” *Los Angeles Times* (December 16, 1908) pg. II1

**December 1908** “San Franciscans are making elaborate preparation for the resumption of the time-honored custom in this city of celebrating the passage of each old year and the dawning of the new, with an impromptu street carnival lasting from dark on New Year’s eve until long after the bells and whistles of the city have heralded the beginning of the new twelvemonth. The celebration this year will be particularly interesting since it is to be in some measure an expression of public rejoicing that Market street, the broad central thoroughfare along which in the years before the fire great crowds surged each New Year’s eve, blowing horns, throwing confetti and making merry in a wild informal way, is almost entirely rehabilitated.” *Los Angeles Times* (December 25, 1908) pg. II6.

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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

**A Different Kind of Jail. By Katherine Mason and Nina Williams-Mbengue. IN: State Legislatures. (December 2008) pp. 30-33.**

Full text at: [http://www.ncsl.org/magazine/articles/2008/08sldec08\\_jail.pdf](http://www.ncsl.org/magazine/articles/2008/08sldec08_jail.pdf)

["Estimates are that incarcerated parents have 1.7 million minor children, accounting for 2.3 percent of all children in the country.... Child welfare advocates say these children usually lose contact with parents, suffer financial hardships, and face social, academic and health problems. At least 12 states have set up task forces, encouraged coordination among agencies or considered developing bills of rights. Lawmakers are hoping to keep families together, help parents as they try to make the transition from prison to society, and reduce the likelihood of parents returning to prison.... At least nine states... have turned to a legislative task force to create policies to help these kids. The panels take on one of the fundamental problems of caring for these children: lack of coordination."]  
[Request #S08-52-3112]

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## CRIME VICTIMS

**Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board: It Has Begun Improving the Victim Compensation Program, but More Remains to Be Done. By the California Bureau of State Audits. 2008-113. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) December 2008.**

["Crime victims in California are getting less financial help from a state victim compensation fund, and too much is spent on administering the program. The amount of victim compensation payments fell from \$123.9 million in the 2001-02 fiscal year to \$61.6 million four years later -- a 50% decline.... Despite the significant decline in payments, the costs the board incurs to support the program have increased. These costs -- ranging from 26 percent to 42 percent annually -- account for a significant portion of Restitution Fund disbursements.... The cut in payments was the result of action by the state board to avoid the fund running out of money before all claims were handled, said Miles Bristow, a board spokesman. The fund is financed with restitution fines levied against convicted criminals, as well as federal grants." Los Angeles Times (December 10, 2008) 1.]

Report. 78 p.

<http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2008-113.pdf>

Executive Summary. 3 p.

<http://www.bsa.ca.gov/reports/summary.php?id=585>

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## PAROLE

**Putting Public Safety First: 13 Strategies for Successful Supervision and Reentry. By Amy L. Solomon, the Urban Institute, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) December 2008.**

["In 2007, the Urban Institute convened two meetings to articulate participants' collective best thinking on parole and probation, violation and revocation practices, and what contributes to effective community supervision. Over the course of these meetings, participants identified the supervision policies and strategies that would help policy makers and practitioners improve public safety and make the best use of taxpayers' dollars. The 13 strategies outlined in this brief are the result of these discussions and a review of the research literature."]

Report. 72 p.

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411791\\_public\\_safety\\_first.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411791_public_safety_first.pdf)

Brief. 4 p.

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411800\\_public\\_safety\\_first.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411800_public_safety_first.pdf)

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## CULTURE AND SOCIETY

### MEDIA

**Exposure to Sex on TV May Increase the Chance of Teen Pregnancy. By Anita Chandra and others, RAND, Inc.. (RAND, Santa Monica, California) November 2008. 2 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_briefs/2008/RAND\\_RB9398.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2008/RAND_RB9398.pdf)

["Although rates have declined since 1991, the United States still has the highest rate of teen pregnancy among industrialized nations -- nearly one million American women aged 15–19 become pregnant each year. A majority of these pregnancies are unplanned. The factors that contribute to teen pregnancy are multiple and complex. However, one factor that has not been studied in depth is exposure to sexual content on television.... A team of RAND researchers examined the link between teen pregnancy and exposure to sexual content on TV. The study found that frequent exposure to TV sexual content was associated with a significantly greater likelihood of teen pregnancy in the following three years."]

[Request #S08-52-3081]

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## ECONOMY

### CALIFORNIA

**California & Metro Forecast: 2008 - 2013. By the Business Forecasting Center, University of the Pacific. (The Center, Stockton, California) December 2008. 72 p.**

Full text at:

[http://forecast.pacific.edu/cametroforecast/CA\\_MetroForecast\\_Dec2008.pdf](http://forecast.pacific.edu/cametroforecast/CA_MetroForecast_Dec2008.pdf)

["California and Sacramento's jobless rate will top 9 percent sometime early next year and won't fall below it until early 2011. The higher unemployment is the obvious result of a deepening recession as the economy moves well beyond the initial job losses in construction and mortgage lending. 'We're out of the housing thing and into a pretty severe ... traditional structure of a recession,' said Jeff Michael, director of the Business Forecasting Center. The state has lost about 100,000 jobs so far; Michael said another 300,000 jobs will disappear in 2009.... Michael said unemployment will likely rise into the teens in some Central Valley communities like Modesto and Merced, though it won't get quite as high as it did in the 1990s." Sacramento Bee (December 10, 2008) 11B.]

[Request #S08-52-3122]

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Empowering Local Government Climate Action: Blueprint for President Obama and 111th Congress. By Climate Communities and Local Governments for Sustainability. (Climate Communities, Washington, DC) December 2008.**

["City and county elected leaders from across America kicked off 'Local Climate Action Week' to highlight innovative climate initiatives and draw attention to hundreds of clean energy projects that are ready-to-go and could quickly create green jobs in their communities.... Despite the vital role local governments will play in solving America's energy and climate crisis, there are currently no federal programs to support local climate and energy initiatives. The Blueprint calls for stimulus legislation to include \$10 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program and \$18 billion for public transit and green vehicles infrastructure. The Blueprint outlines many other opportunities for the federal government to invest in local government innovation." Climate Communities Press Release. (December 8, 2008) 1.]  
[Request #S08-52-3116]

Blueprint. 5 p.

<http://www.climatecommunities.us/documents/blueprint.pdf>

Projects ready to go. 13 p.

[http://www.climatecommunities.us/documents/green\\_economic\\_recovery\\_projects.pdf](http://www.climatecommunities.us/documents/green_economic_recovery_projects.pdf)

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**"Ready to Go" Jobs and Infrastructure Projects. By the United States Conference of Mayors. (The Conference, Washington, DC) December 8, 2008. 803 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.usmayors.org/mainstreeteconomicrecovery/documents/msr-report-200812.pdf>

["There are many thousands of infrastructure projects in cities that can get underway immediately and be completed quickly -- within one or two years. Projects in just 4 cities are capable of quickly generating nearly 848,000 jobs -- well over one-third of the 2.5 million jobs sought by the President-elect."]  
[Request #S08-52-3131]

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## INCOME DISTRIBUTION

**Prices, Poverty, and Inequality: Why Americans Are Better Off Than You Think.** By Christian Broda, University of Chicago, and David E. Weinstein, Columbia University. (American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC) November 2008. 63 p.

Full text at: [http://www.aei.org/books/bookID.969/book\\_detail.asp](http://www.aei.org/books/bookID.969/book_detail.asp)

["According to conventional wisdom, the economic well-being of all but the wealthiest Americans has stagnated or declined over the past twenty-five years.... This idea is based upon misleading measurements of wealth and poverty. The consumer price index used to compute official measures of real wages and poverty ignores two key sources of increased prosperity: the introduction of new and better products and consumers' ability to substitute between goods. Deflating nominal wages by a cost-of-living index that adjusts for these previously unconsidered factors of prosperity suggests that the real wages of the poor have actually risen by 30 percent since the late 1970s -- and that the poverty rate in America has fallen dramatically over the last forty years."]

[Request #S08-52-3067]

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## LOS ANGELES

**Los Angeles 2008: State of the City Report.** By Dominic Brewer, University of Southern California, and others. (Pat Brown Institute of Public Affairs, Los Angeles, California) 2008. 36 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.patbrowninstitute.org/publications/documents/08\\_StateofCity\\_ToPrintFinal.pdf](http://www.patbrowninstitute.org/publications/documents/08_StateofCity_ToPrintFinal.pdf)

["This annual report of the state of the City of LA examines topical, social, political and economic matters facing LA and how it fairs in relation to these issues. The report is written by several policy experts. This year, the report examines the following: housing (housing supply, number of foreclosures, new housing units built, affordable housing deficits in L.A.), the job market (employment, income distribution, earnings per job), health (the aging population, violence, substance abuse and causes of death and premature death), education (student performance, and school reform in L.A. Unified School District), strategies for creating smart growth and more. Broad policy options of some of the issues examined are also provided."]

[Request #S08-52-3091]

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## EDUCATION

### ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

**Pain and Gain: Implementing No Child Left Behind in Three States, 2004–2006.**  
By Brian M. Stecher and others, RAND, Inc.. (RAND, Santa Monica, California)  
2008.

["The study was designed to examine the strategies that states, districts, and schools are using to implement standards-based accountability under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and how these strategies are associated with classroom practices and student achievement in mathematics and science.... It contains descriptive information regarding the implementation of NCLB in California, Georgia, and Pennsylvania from 2003-2004 through 2005-2006.... This study suggests that school improvement efforts might be more effective if they were responsive to local conditions and customized to address the specific causes of failure and the capacity of the schools in question."]

Report. 161 p.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND\\_MG784.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG784.pdf)

Summary. 9 p.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND\\_MG784.sum.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG784.sum.pdf)

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### HIGHER EDUCATION

**Measuring Up 2008: The National Report Card on Higher Education.** By the  
National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. (The Center, San Jose,  
California) December 3, 2008.

["["An independent research report gave failing grades to every state but California on keeping college affordable. California's 'C' grade was somewhat misleading, however, as it reflected bargain-basement sticker prices at the state's two-year colleges. The researchers found the cost of attending a University of California or Cal State University campus to be relatively steep, and also said the state's high cost of living ate up much of the community college pricing advantage." Los Angeles Times (December 3, 2008) 1.]

National Report Card, 36 p.

<http://measuringup2008.highereducation.org/print/NCPPEMUNationalRpt.pdf>

California State Report Card. 18 p.

[http://measuringup2008.highereducation.org/states/report\\_cards/index.php?state=C&myYear=2006&cat=10yr](http://measuringup2008.highereducation.org/states/report_cards/index.php?state=C&myYear=2006&cat=10yr)

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**University Tuition, Consumer Choice and College Affordability: Strategies for Addressing a Higher Education Affordability Challenge. By Peter McPherson and David Shulenburg, National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. (The Association, Washington, DC) November 2008. 90 p.**

Full text at: <https://www.nasulgc.org/NetCommunity/Document.Doc?id=1296>

["Aggressive cost-cutting has kept steady the money spent per student. But the decline in state financing, coupled with the rising cost of health care and technology, has forced tuition costs upward. If trends continue, the average annual tuition and fees at public research universities could rise to \$44,202 by 2036, raising the percentage of median family income spent on tuition to 24 percent, from 8 percent now." Chronicle of Higher Education (December 1, 2008) 1.]  
[Request #S08-52-3098]

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## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **SKILLED WORK FORCE**

**California's Future Workforce: Will There Be Enough College Graduates? By Deborah Reed, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) December 2008. 20 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=809>

["California could run short of college graduates needed to keep its economy humming by 2025. As a result, the state may not have enough teachers, computer programmers, scientists and other key workers to meet escalating 21st century demands. If current trends continue, in 16 years the state should expect 4 out of every 10 workers to earn at least a bachelor's degree. Whereas the number of college-educated workers grew significantly over the last two decades -- from 28% in 1990 to 34% in 2006 -- the pace is likely to slow because of California's fast-changing demographics. Having too few college graduates and too many non-college graduates in the workforce could contribute to growing income inequality between educational haves and have-nots." Los Angeles Times (December 8, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-52-3126]

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## UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

**Statement on the November Employment Report. By Chad Stone, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (The Center, Washington, DC) December 5, 2008. 2 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.cbpp.org/12-5-08ui-stmt.pdf>

["The devastating jobs report confirms that the economy is in a serious recession. Good policy in the months ahead is vital to limit the damage, but even so this recession is likely to be the longest, and possibly one of the deepest, since World War II. The report also makes it more likely that unemployment will reach 9 percent by the end of 2009. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates this could swell the number of Americans living in poverty by up to 10 million and the number of Americans in deep poverty, with incomes below half the poverty line, by up to 6 million."]

[Request #S08-52-3128]

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## ENERGY

### GASOLINE AND DIESEL

**Fuel Delivery Temperature Study: Staff Report. By Gordon Schremp and others, California Energy Commission. (The Commission, Sacramento, California) November 2008. 158 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2008publications/CEC-600-2008-012/CEC-600-2008-012-SF.PDF>

["California drivers were overcharged \$376.4 million on gasoline in one year because fuel pumps don't adjust for changing temperatures. Just like other fluids, gasoline expands as it warms up. But gas pumps always dispense the same volume, both in winter's chill and summer's heat.... The industry, so far, has blocked efforts to bring temperature-adjusting pumps to the United States. California legislators have toyed with the idea of requiring temperature-adjusting pumps and last year ordered the energy commission to study the issue. The commission report spells out ways that the state could enforce such a requirement. But the report also concludes that forcing gas station owners to switch or retrofit their pumps would do the public little good.... Costs will most likely be passed along to the consumers" San Francisco Chronicle (December 4, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-52-3100]

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## RENEWABLE ENERGY

**A Federal Renewable Electricity Requirement: What's Not to Like? By Robert J. Michaels, Cato Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) November 2008. 44 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa-627.pdf>

["Over half the states have enacted 'renewable portfolio standards' (RPS) that require utilities to obtain some power from 'renewable' generation resources rather than carbon emitting fossil fuels. Reports of state-level success have brought proposals for a national standard. Like several predecessor Congresses, however, the most recent one failed to pass RPS legislation. Before trying one more time, legislators should ask why they favor a policy so politically correct and so economically suspect. Support for a national program largely stems from misleading claims about state-level successes, misunderstandings about how renewables interact with other environmental regulation, and misinformation about the actual benefits renewables create."]

[Request #S08-52-3035]

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## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

### BAY DELTA

**The Economics of Ending Delta Water Exports Versus the Peripheral Canal: Checking the Data of the PPIC. By Jeffrey A. Michael, University of the Pacific. (The University, Stockton, California) October 2008. 9 p.**

Full text at:

<http://forecast.pacific.edu/articles/peripheral%20canal%20PPIC%20review.pdf>

["The case for building the peripheral canal has recently received a major boost from a report by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) that endorses the peripheral canal as the best long-run solution for the Delta. The PPIC report considers alternative strategies, most notably ending Delta water exports. They find that ending Delta water exports is significantly better for the environment than a peripheral canal, but reject the strategy because it is too costly. However, the PPIC's cost estimates are exaggerated. They depend on inaccurate assumptions that utilize outdated, undocumented, or fabricated sources. When adjustments are made to their population growth and desalination cost assumptions to reflect the best, documented sources, the cost of ending Delta exports are likely to be similar to a peripheral canal. With similar costs, ending Delta exports is the best strategy due to its superior environmental benefits."]

[Request #S08-52-3124]

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

**Climate Policy at the Local Level: A Survey of California's Cities and Counties. By Ellen Hanak and others, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) November 2008. 53 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R\\_1108EHR.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_1108EHR.pdf)

["California has taken center stage in national and international efforts to fight global warming. This survey of over 300 of the state's cities and counties puts the spotlight on the role California's local governments are playing. It finds that there is already considerable local involvement in activities related to climate change. However, many efforts are still focused on municipal operations and facilities, rather than on the broader community. Better information on successful programs and funding sources, and greater clarity in state law on conformity with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will help further local efforts."] [Request #S08-52-3059]

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## GREEN HOUSE GASES

**Climate Change Proposed Scoping Plan: A Framework for Change. By the California Air Resources Board. (The Board, Sacramento, California) October 2008. 142 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/document/psp.pdf>

["This plan calls for an ambitious but achievable reduction in California's carbon footprint. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels means cutting approximately 30 percent from business-as-usual emission levels projected for 2020, or about 15 percent from today's levels. On a per-capita basis, that means reducing our annual emissions of 14 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent for every man, woman and child in California down to about 10 tons per person by 2020. This challenge also presents a magnificent opportunity to transform California's economy into one that runs on clean and sustainable technologies, so that all Californians are able to enjoy their rights in the future to clean air, clean water, and a healthy and safe environment."] [Request #S08-52-3088]

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**Report on the Draft Scoping Plan of the Air Resources Board for Implementation of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. By the California Legislative Analyst's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) November 17, 2008. 24 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.lao.ca.gov/2008/rsrc/ab32/AB32\\_scoping\\_plan\\_112108.pdf](http://www.lao.ca.gov/2008/rsrc/ab32/AB32_scoping_plan_112108.pdf)

["The scoping plan's overall emissions reductions and purported net economic benefit are highly reliant on one measure -- the Pavley regulations. Implementation of the regulations on light-duty vehicle emission of GHGs accounts for about 18 percent of the plan's emissions reductions .... The plan does not reflect the costs and savings of all of the emissions reduction measures that it recommends. .... Macroeconomic modeling results show a slight net economic benefit to the plan, but ARB failed to demonstrate the analytical rigor of its findings. .... Despite its prediction of eventual net economic benefit, the scoping plan fails to lay out an investment pathway to reach its goals for GHG emissions levels in 2020."]  
[Request #S08-52-3083]

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## **WATER RESOURCES**

**Delta Vision Committee Discussion Document. By the Delta Vision Committee. (The Committee, Sacramento, California) November 25, 2008. 7 p.**

Full text at:

[http://deltavision.ca.gov/Newsroom/DV\\_Committee\\_discussion\\_draft\\_112508.pdf](http://deltavision.ca.gov/Newsroom/DV_Committee_discussion_draft_112508.pdf)

["Over the next two years, California should pass laws cutting water consumption by 20 percent, shore up strategic levees, study new reservoirs and pass Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's \$9 billion-plus water bond, according to a set of preliminary recommendations released by the Cabinet-level panel. In addition to authorizing additional funding and bolstering infrastructure, the committee proposed designating the delta a National Heritage Area, increasing the state's supply of recycled and desalinated water and cracking down on water permits violators. Water rights permits ostensibly set the amount of water that may be diverted from any water source." San Francisco Chronicle (November 27, 2008) 1.]  
[Request #S08-52-3094]

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## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

### GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

**Maplight and California First Amendment Coalition v. Office of the Legislative Counsel of California. Sacramento County Superior Court. Petition for Premptory Writ of Mandate. December 3, 2008. Various pagings.**

Full text at: <http://maplight.info/Documents/08CALawsuitFULL.pdf>

["Political watchdog and open records groups filed a lawsuit seeking to force California officials to provide the state computer database for tracking thousands of votes and pieces of legislation.... The groups said the Web site doesn't allow sophisticated searches tracking lawmakers and multiple bills.... Legislative Counsel Diane Boyer-Vine refused the request, asserting that the California Public Records Act 'does not require disclosure of the database itself.' Peter Scheer, executive director of the California First Amendment Coalition, said, 'The office of the Legislative Counsel is obviously afraid that release of the legislative database ... will make it too easy for voters to connect financial contributions by special interests to specific votes and other accommodating actions by legislators.'" Sacramento Bee (December 4, 2008) 1.]

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### GOVERNMENT REFORM

**Remapping a Nation without States: Personalized Full Representation for California's 21st Century. By Mark Paul and Micah Weinberg, New America Foundation. (The Foundation, Sacramento, California) November 2008.**

["California is a state of many distinct regions. To give citizens a voice on regional issues and to reinvigorate California's Legislature, the state's central institution of self-government, we propose Personalized Full Representation for the 21st Century (PFR21), a system of representation by means of regionally based legislative elections that will allow the state's citizens to set the agenda for their regions and for the state as a whole. By reshaping the stage on which legislative politics is played out, California can make state government more attentive to regional issues and give its citizens a means of holding elected officials accountable for addressing regional problems. PFR21 would break the partisan stranglehold on California's legislative outcomes and put the state at the forefront of political and policy innovation."]

Report. 20 p.

[http://www.newamerica.net/files/naf\\_nations\\_paper\\_v4.pdf](http://www.newamerica.net/files/naf_nations_paper_v4.pdf)

Summary. 2 p.

[http://www.newamerica.net/files/naf\\_nations\\_summary\\_v2.pdf](http://www.newamerica.net/files/naf_nations_summary_v2.pdf)

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## **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

**The Intergenerational Transfer of Public Pension Promises. By Robert Novy-Marx and Joshua D. Rauh, University of Chicago. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) September 2008. 42 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.nber.org/tmp/97838-w14343.pdf>

["The value of pension promises already made by US state governments will grow to approximately \$7.9 trillion in 15 years. We study investment strategies of state pension plans and estimate the distribution of future funding outcomes. We conservatively predict a 50% chance of aggregate underfunding greater than \$750 billion and a 25% chance of at least \$1.75 trillion (in 2005 dollars). Adjusting for risk, the true intergenerational transfer is substantially larger. Insuring both taxpayers against funding deficits and plan participants against benefit reductions would cost almost \$2 trillion today, even though governments portray state pensions as almost fully funded."]

[Request #S08-52-3089]

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## **STATE BUDGETS**

**Budget Cuts or Tax Increases at the State Level: Which Is Preferable During an Economic Downturn? By Nicholas Johnson, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. (The Center, Washington, DC) November 2008. 3 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.cbpp.org/1-8-08sfp.pdf>

["The combination of a weak economy and projected budget shortfalls is posing a major challenge for state policymakers: How can they balance their states' budgets with the least possible harm to already damaged state economies?... Policymakers sometimes contend that the weakness of the economy means that a state should rely solely on cutting spending, rather than raising taxes. The aversion to raising taxes during a recession, however, rests on a misconception of economic effects.... Two highly regarded economists -- Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia University, and Peter Orszag, now the director of the Congressional Budget Office - - wrote during the last recession that spending cuts could actually be more harmful for a state's economy during an economic downturn than tax increases. This assertion still holds true."]

[Request #S08-52-3132]

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## HEALTH

### CHILDREN

**Trouble in Toyland: Toy Safety Survey. By Liz Hitchcock and Edmund Mierzwinski, U.S. PIRG Education Fund. (The Fund, Washington, DC) 2008. 21 p.**

Full text at:

<http://www.uspirg.org/uploads/UK/NE/UKNERu1SS4LqBkfsij8gAA/2008ToylandReport.pdf>

["This report provides safety guidelines for parents when purchasing toys for small children and provides examples of toys currently on store shelves that may pose potential safety hazards. We visited numerous toy stores and other retailers to find potentially dangerous toys and identify trends in toy safety. This year, we focused on four categories of toys: toys that may pose choking hazards, magnetic toys, toys that are excessively loud, and toys that contain lead and other potentially toxic chemicals."]

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### ELDERLY

**Trends in the Health of Older Californians: Data from the 2001, 2003 and 2005 California Health Interview Surveys. By Steve P. Wallace and others, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, (The Center, Los Angeles, California) November 2008. p. 42**

Full text at:

[http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/Trends\\_Older\\_CAs\\_RT\\_111708.pdf](http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/Trends_Older_CAs_RT_111708.pdf)

["Three out of five seniors in California had high blood pressure in 2005, up from half in 2001. .... The study also found that significant racial gaps remained. Diabetes and obesity are nearly twice as high for older African Americans and Latinos than whites. Asian American, black and Latino seniors were three times as likely to report difficulty getting enough to eat. In South Los Angeles older residents ticked off reasons why they and their neighbors fared poorly. Fresh fruits and vegetables are not cheap and often scarce in low-income South L.A.. Instead, they go to fast-food restaurants, which serve cheap meals rich in fat, served with sodas loaded with sugar." Los Angeles Times (November 21, 2008) 1.]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

**Where We Live Matters for Our Health: The Links Between Housing and Health.** By Craig Pollack, University of Pennsylvania, and Susan Egerter, University of California, San Francisco. (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, New Jersey) September 20, 2008. 12 p.

Full text at: <http://www.commissiononhealth.org/PDF/033756c1-3ee3-4e36-bb0e-557a0c5986c3/Issue%20Brief%20%20Sept%2008%20-%20Housing%20and%20Health.pdf>

["This issue brief examines ways in which housing can influence health and discusses strategies to improve America's health by ensuring that all Americans have healthier homes. The focus is on three important and inter-related aspects of residential housing and their links to health: 1) physical conditions within homes; 2) conditions in the neighborhoods surrounding homes; and 3) housing affordability. Home and neighborhood conditions affects the overall ability of families to make healthy choices."]

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## MENTAL HEALTH

**Unclaimed Children Revisited: The Status of Children's Mental Health Policy in the United States.** By Janice L. Cooper and others, National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) November 2008.

["The vast majority of states are taking tangible steps to improve their mental health delivery systems for children.... More in-depth analysis, however, reveals that these changes, while promising, are often severely limited in scope and shallow in depth due to lack of concerted strategic plans.... The clear message from this report is that children, youth, and families need their leaders to implement an agenda that places at the forefront the best knowledge about what children and youth need at different stages of their development, effective practices, and the settings and systems most equipped to support them in family- and youth-responsive and culturally and linguistically competent ways."]

[Request #S08-52-3133]

Report. 159 p.

[http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text\\_853.pdf](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_853.pdf)

Executive summary. 12 p.

[http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/download\\_266.pdf](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/download_266.pdf)

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## NURSING HOMES

**"Racial Disparities in Access to Long-Term Care: The Elusive Pursuit Equity."**  
By David Barton Smith and others. IN: *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, vol. 33 (October 2008) pp. 861-881

Full text at: <http://jhppl.dukejournals.org/cgi/reprint/33/5/861>

["We find that African Americans' use of nursing homes in 2000 in the United States was 14 percent higher than Caucasians' use. The largest relative African American use of nursing homes in 2000 took place in the South and West. Average nursing-home case-mix acuity for African Americans and Caucasians were essentially identical, suggesting that shifts in payment incentives have eliminated the selective admission of easy-care private-pay (predominantly Caucasian) patients and helped fuel the growth of private pay home care and assisted living for this segment of the population. While these shifts in incentives helped increase the use of nursing homes by African Americans, a high degree of segregation and disparity in the quality of the nursing homes used by African Americans persists."]  
[Request #S08-52-3077]

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## HOUSING

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Federal Programs for Addressing Low-Income Housing Needs: A Policy Primer.**  
By Margery Austin Turner and G. Thomas Kingsley, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) December 2008. 32 p.

Full text at: [http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411798\\_low-income\\_housing.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411798_low-income_housing.pdf)

["Many low-income families have difficulty finding housing they can reasonably afford. Although most family-strengthening and community change initiatives recognize the urgency of the housing problems facing low-income families, they often have difficulty figuring out how to constructively address them. Federal housing programs are numerous and confusing, implementation is balkanized, funding falls woefully short of needs, and policy debates often focus on narrow technical issues. This primer demystifies federal rental assistance programs and provides the most current information available on how many (and who) they serve and how their scale is changing. It also summarizes key challenges facing housing policy today and in the coming years -- challenges that may create opportunities for federal, state, and local engagement and innovation."]  
[Request #S08-52-3127]

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## REAL ESTATE LOANS

**Spatial Variation in Foreclosures in Los Angeles. By Paul Ong and Deirdre Pfeiffer, University of California Los Angeles. (The University, Los Angeles, California) October 26, 2008. 35 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.zimancenter.com/WorkingPapers/2008-22.pdf>

["Research on the initial stage of the current mortgage foreclosure crisis focuses on its causes, scope and economic impact. This study contributes to the emerging literature by showing how the crisis plays out differently across urban neighborhoods. Clearly, the two most immediate causal factors are the relative size of the housing bubble and the number of risky loans. Yet, neighborhoods also are defined by demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, among other factors -- conditions that may shape their experience of regional housing market dynamics.... Our findings...suggest ways that policymakers in sprawling, high growth, multiracial regions can target remedial measures, as well as prevent future housing crises."]

[Request #S08-52-3106]

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**California Foreclosure Watch: For the Third Quarter 2008. By Rani Isaac, California Research Bureau, California State Library. CRB-08-098. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) December 2008. 2 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-098.pdf>

["Foreclosures have soared in the past three quarters. Eleven counties account for 78 percent of the state's foreclosures.... Los Angeles has recorded 42,800 foreclosures in this housing downturn, which began in 2006, while the state has lost 288,491 homes to foreclosure. This update of two earlier reports contains sales data and home prices for individual counties and two scenarios of housing demand for the state in 2010. Foreclosures are now likely to exceed 500,000 in the years through 2012, not including short sales or deeds in lieu of foreclosure.... This update is part of a series of quarterly projections. CRB plans to follow the cycle until job losses abate and home prices stabilize, most likely sometime after the second quarter in 2009."]

[Request #S08-52-3111]

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## HUMAN SERVICES

### FAMILIES

**A Family-Based Social Contract. By Phillip Longman and David Gray, New America Foundation. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) November 2008. 14 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.newamerica.net/files/family\\_based\\_social\\_contract.pdf](http://www.newamerica.net/files/family_based_social_contract.pdf)

[“In all advanced nations, there has been a dramatic fall in birthrates, often to well below replacement rates, and rapidly aging populations. At the same time, the state of family life has become deeply problematic, with high rates of divorce and out-of-wedlock births, and increasing downward mobility among parents. We need to make major adjustments to the social contract in order to allow parents to retain more of the return that comes to society through their investment in children. Because stable families make a great difference in the lives of children, the next social contract should support them. Because having and raising children is a public good, the next social contract should focus on supporting parents and children as early in life as possible.”]  
[Request #S08-52-3120]

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### FATHERHOOD

**"What Works" in Fatherhood Programs?: Ten Lessons from Evidence-Based Practice. By Jacinta Bronte-Tinkew and others. (National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse, Gaithersburg, Maryland) September 2008. 10 p.**

Full text at: <http://tinyurl.com/5wl3xq>

["As the responsible fatherhood field continues to grow, an increasing number of programs have been put into place to improve fathers' involvement with children and families. While several studies have examined the effects of programs on outcomes for fathers and their families, results of these studies vary, as does the quality and rigor of research methods. Only rigorous evaluations of programs can provide evidence of whether or not programs have the desired effect. Fortunately, the existence of several rigorous evaluations of recent fatherhood and parenting programs allow us to make preliminary conclusions about those features that make for effective fatherhood programs.”]  
[Request #S08-52-3102]

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## TRANSPORTATION

### HIGH-SPEED RAIL

**California High-Speed Trains: Business Plan. By the California High-Speed Rail Authority. (The Authority, Sacramento, California) November 2007. 32 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/images/chsr/20081107104004\\_CHSRABusinessPlan2008.pdf](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/images/chsr/20081107104004_CHSRABusinessPlan2008.pdf)

["California's new high-speed train system will be an infrastructure project on the scale of the State Water Project, generating more than \$1 billion in surplus revenues a year by 2030, reducing congestion and pollution, and returning nearly three times as much in value as the system will cost over the next 40 years. Those are among the key findings of a new Business Plan. This Business Plan calculates high-speed trains will alleviate the need to spend nearly \$100 billion to build about 3,000 miles of new freeway plus five airport runways and 90 departure gates over the next two decades. A statewide high-speed train system will meet that same need for about half the cost." Authority Press Release (November 7, 2008)

[Request #S08-52-3114]

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