

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU
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Studies in the News**

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

March 1910 “On a beautiful tract of high-rolling land commanding a superb vista of mountain and valley and sea, the Los Angeles Country Club will, within the next few months, begin rearing one of the most attractive and pretentious country club buildings in the United States. The structure will occupy the highest knoll of the old Wolfskill tract, immediately west of the townsite of Beverly and will front the east. From its spacious porches, the members will command an unsurpassed view of the mountains to the north and the city to the east, while to the south lie San Pedro and Wilmington. The matchless panorama will be completed by a full, free view of Santa Catalina and the Pacific. Probably no other similar organization in the country boasts quarters so nearly ideal as to situation.” Los Angeles Times (March 22, 1910) p. II1 [Los Angeles Country Club](#)

May 1919 “Architects plans for the Craggs Country Clubhouse , which will be built at once in the Topango-Malibu Mountains, half way between Calabasas and Point Dume, were completed yesterday by Sumner P. Hunt, of Hunt, Eager & Burns, and contracts for construction will be let at once. This club will be the most unique in the country, and its building will be high on a rugged promontory that juts out from the mountainside over the Malibu stream. In front of the house, a great prospect of rock falls sheer to the waterway, a distance of more than a hundred feet. Behind the club, the mountains rise sharply, while the ground falls away steeply on either side.” Los Angeles Times (May 1, 1910) p. II1 [Craggs Country Club](#)

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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

Securing Our Borders: Doing What Works to Ensure Immigration Reform Is Complete and Comprehensive. By Chuck McCutcheon, (Center for American Progress, Washington, DC) April 2010. 44 p.

Full text at: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/secure_borders.html

["This report will detail the legacy of border enforcement problems stretching back to the 1990s, examine in detail what went wrong, and then present our recommendations of what must be done to fix the problems. We'll repeat this analytical exercise when we look at our ineffective border controls, the misguided government contracting work under the Bush administration, particularly productivity and project management breakdowns, and more recent problems that are surfacing since the Obama administration took office. In the end, we believe our recommendations about what must be done about border controls and immigration will persuade Congress and the Obama administration to act this year on this critical problem confronting our nation."]

[Request #S10-9-4801]

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The Performance of 287(g) Agreements. By the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General. (The Office, Washington, DC) March 2010. 94 p.

Full text at: http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmttrpts/OIG_10-63_Mar10.pdf

["A nationwide program that allows local law enforcement agencies to perform some immigration duties has numerous shortcomings. The report states that the program is poorly managed and supervised, lacks strict guidelines for implementation and fails to adequately train local officials about immigration law. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which partners with local agencies on the program, is not focusing its efforts on identifying criminal immigrants who pose the greatest risk to the public.... Since the inspector general's review was conducted, the agency said it has taken steps to fulfill many of the report's recommendations." San Bernardino Sun (April 5, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-9-4731]

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PRISONER REENTRY

Improving Employment Prospects for Former Prison Inmates: Challenges and Policy. By Steven Raphael, University of California, Berkeley. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) April 2010. 68 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w15874>

["Using a 2003 survey of California establishments, I characterize employers' preferences with regards to hiring convicted felons into non-managerial, non-professional jobs, the degree to which employers check criminal history records, and the incidence of legal prohibitions against hiring convicted felons. I conduct multivariate analyses of the impact of checking criminal backgrounds on the likelihood of hiring workers of different race/gender combinations, using legal prohibition against hiring felons as an instrument for checking. Finally, I review the research evidence evaluating programmatic efforts to improve employment prospects and reduce recidivism among former prison inmates."]
[Request #S10-9-4729]

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PRISONERS

It's About Time: Aging Prisoners, Increasing Costs, and Geriatric Release. By Tina Chiu, Vera Institute of Justice. (The Institute, New York, New York) April 2010. 16 p.

Full text at: <http://www.vera.org/download?file=2973/Its-about-time-aging-prisoners-increasing-costs-and-geriatric-release.pdf>

["As harsher policies have led to longer prison sentences, often with a limited possibility of parole, correctional facilities throughout the United States are home to a growing number of elderly adults. To reduce the costs of caring for aging inmates -- or to avert future costs -- legislators and policymakers have been increasingly willing to consider early release for those older prisoners who are seen as posing a relatively low risk to public safety.... This report is based upon a statutory review of geriatric release provisions, including some medical release practices that specifically refer to elderly inmates. The review was supplemented by interviews and examination of data in publicly available documents. This report offers recommendations for responding to the disparities between geriatric release policies and practice."]
[Request #S10-9-4725]

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CULTURE AND SOCIETY

PRIVACY

How Different are Young Adults from Older Adults When it Comes to Information Privacy Attitudes and Policies? By Chris Jay Hoofnagle, University of California, Berkeley, and others. (Social Science Research Network, Rochester, New York) April 14, 2010. 20 p.

Full text at: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1589864

["Many commentators claim that young people are less concerned with maintaining privacy than older people are.... We found that large percentages of young adults (those 18-24 years) are in harmony with older Americans regarding concerns about online privacy, norms, and policy suggestions.... A gap in privacy knowledge provides one explanation for the apparent license with which the young behave online.... We conclude that young-adult Americans have an aspiration for increased privacy even while they participate in an online reality that is optimized to increase their revelation of personal data."]

[Request #S10-9-4803]

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YOUTH

Teens and Mobile Phones: Text Messaging Explodes as Teens Embrace It as the Centerpiece of Their Communication Strategies with Friends. By Amanda Lenhart, Pew Research Center Internet & American Life Project, and others. (The Project, Washington, DC) April 20, 2010. 94 p.

Full text at: <http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP-Teens-and-Mobile-2010.pdf>

["Cell-phone texting has become the preferred channel of basic communication between teens and their friends and cell calling is a close second.... Fully 72% of all teens -- or 88% of teen cell phone users -- are text-messagers. That is a sharp rise from the 51% of teens who were texters in 2006. Among all teens, the frequency of use of texting has now overtaken the frequency of every other common form of interaction with their friends. One in three teens sends more than 100 text messages a day, or 3000 texts a month."]

[Request #S10-9-4804]

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DEMOGRAPHY

BABY BOOMERS

Boomers in the Middle: An In-Depth Look at Americans Born 1952 – 1958. By the MetLife Mature Market Institute. (The Institute, Westport, Connecticut) March 2010. 28 p.

Full text at: <http://www.metlife.com/assets/cao/mmi/publications/studies/2010/mmi-boomers-middle.pdf>

["More than half of Middle Boomers still have children living at home, and about half have grandchildren. Two-thirds have at least one parent still alive, making them a good example of the proverbial 'sandwich generation.'... Middle Boomers would like to retire at age 65 but do not think they will be able to do so until age 66, not a great difference in view of the economic turbulence they have experienced. Their plans to do so have not changed in the last two years despite economic challenges.... Seventy-two percent have been providing financial assistance and support to their grown children and grandchildren averaging about \$38,000 over the past five years.... Middle Boomers are experiencing a shift in their life priorities in the past few years with more of them concentrating more on family, financial security, and personal well-being and wellness, particularly among women."]
[Request #S10-9-4768]

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FAMILIES

The Return of the Multi-Generational Family Household. By Paul Taylor and others, Pew Research Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) March 18, 2010. 26 p.

Full text at: <http://pewsocialtrends.org/assets/pdf/752-multi-generational-families.pdf>

["In 2008, an estimated 49 million Americans, or 16% of the total U.S. population, lived in a family household that contained at least two adult generations or a grandparent and at least one other generation. In 1980, this figure was just 28 million, or 12% of the population. This report documents major changes in family household living arrangements that have unfolded over the past three decades and accelerated during the Great Recession. Its principal focus is on the revival since 1980 of the multi-generational family household. It also chronicles a range of recent trends in the living arrangements of older adults, and it explores the correlation between living alone at an older age and various life experiences, including health, happiness and depression."]
[Request #S10-9-4705]

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ECONOMY

GREEN ECONOMY

Measuring the Green Economy. By the Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. (The Administration, Washington, DC) April 2010. 50 p.

Full text at: <http://www.esa.doc.gov/GreenEconomyReport/>

["Our results suggest that green products and services comprised 1% to 2% of the total private business economy in 2007. The lower estimate was developed using a narrow definition that included products that we found generated little debate regarding their 'greenness.' The larger estimate was based on a broad definition that included products that some might argue were not green. Under the broad definition, the share of green products and services was substantially larger but still constituted only a relatively small part of the economy. The number of green jobs was also found to be modest, ranging from about 1.8 million jobs under the narrow definition to 2.4 million jobs under the broad definition. These jobs constituted between 1.5% and 2.0% of total private sector employment in 2007."]

[Request #S10-9-4807]

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual Property: Observations on Efforts to Quantify the Economic Effects of Counterfeit and Pirated Goods. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-10-423. (The Office, Washington, DC) April 2010. 41 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10423.pdf>

["Generally, the illicit nature of counterfeiting and piracy makes estimating the economic impact of IP infringements extremely difficult, so assumptions must be used to offset the lack of data. Efforts to estimate losses involve assumptions such as the rate at which consumers would substitute counterfeit for legitimate products, which can have enormous impacts on the resulting estimates. Because of the significant differences in types of counterfeited and pirated goods and industries involved, no single method can be used to develop estimates. Each method has limitations, and most experts observed that it is difficult, if not impossible, to quantify the economy-wide impacts. Nonetheless, research in specific industries suggest that the problem is sizeable, which is of particular concern as many U.S. industries are leaders in the creation of intellectual property."]

[Request #S10-9-4806]

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EDUCATION

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Case Studies of Three Community Colleges: The Policy and Practice of Assessing and Placing Students in Developmental Education Courses. By Stephanie Safran and Mary G. Visser, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) March 2010. 31 p.

Full text at: <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/548/full.pdf>

["Among educators and policymakers, there is a burgeoning awareness that vast numbers of community college students around the country are unprepared for college-level work and hence referred to developmental education courses.... MDRC conducted case studies at three community colleges to learn about each college's placement policies and practices. Our case studies illustrate the routine policies and practices at each of the three colleges and highlight several issues and challenges, including a lack of consensus about the standard for college-level work, the high-stakes nature of the assessments, and the minimal relationship between assessment for placement and diagnosis for instruction."]

[Request #S10-9-4765]

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EDUCATION POLICY

Gaining Ground in the Middle Grades: Why Some Schools Do Better. By Trish Williams, EdSource, and others. (EdSource, Mountain View, California) February 2010. 74 p.

Full text at: <http://www.edsource.org/middle-grades-study.html>

["What differentiates the higher-performing schools most from the lower-performing schools is a shared district and schoolwide culture that places its primary focus on improvements in academic outcomes for all students, from the lowest performing to the highest; and designs its instructional program to prepare all students for a rigorous high school education. This focus is reflected in how district and school educators set measurable goals for improvement, communicate with students and families about the relationship of middle grades achievement to future goals, and make improved student outcomes a part of educator performance evaluations. It is also reflected in the intensity and coherence with which the educators align school curricula, assessments, and instruction to the state's academic standards; how assessment data are reviewed and analyzed to improve instruction and learning."]

[Request #S10-9-4681]

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2010: Closing the Expectations Gap: Fifth Annual 50-State Progress Report on the Alignment of High School Policies with the Demands of College and Careers. By Achieve. (Achieve, Washington, DC) March 2010. 32 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.achieve.org/files/AchieveClosingtheExpectationsGap2010.pdf>

["Five years ago, three states had aligned their high school standards in English and Mathematics with postsecondary and workplace expectations. Five years later, 31 states report that they have college- and career-ready standards, including eight that adopted aligned high school standards in the past year. What started off as isolated efforts among individual states just five years ago has become a national movement producing a national consensus: standards must be aligned to college- and career-ready expectations. Moreover, as states began to focus their end-of-high-school expectations on college and career readiness, those expectations became increasingly consistent across the states. This growing consensus and strong foundation has spurred the state-led Common Core State Standards Initiative."]
[Request #S10-9-4678]

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EDUCATIONAL REFORM

Restructuring 'Restructuring': Improving Interventions for Low-Performing Schools and Districts, By Robert Manwaring, Education Sector. (Education Sector, Washington, DC) April 2010. 20 p.

Full text at: http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/Restructuring.pdf

["Citing a decade-plus of failed reforms at a Los Angeles middle school, a new report credits President Obama's effort to turn around the nation's lowest performing schools, but raises serious questions about the administration's execution of it. Deadline pressures and insufficient turnaround dollars could stymie the first round of restructuring troubled schools this year, including 188 in California. And the least restrictive restructuring option that most school districts will choose -- the vague "transformation strategy" -- could encounter significant obstacles. Manwaring recounts the history of Markham Middle School in the Watts area of Los Angeles both to make the case for strong measures and to foreshadow difficulties. After 13 years at rock bottom with California's lowest test scores, the 1,500 student school still hasn't been cured." Educated Guess (April 7, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-9-4757]

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EMPLOYMENT

IMMIGRATION

Across the Spectrum: The Wide Range of Jobs Immigrants Do. By David Dyssegaard Kallick, Fiscal Policy Institute. (The Institute, New York, New York) April 2010. 21 p.

Full text at:

http://www.fiscalpolicy.org/FPI_ImmigrantsAndOccupationalDiversity.pdf

["In 14 of the 25 largest metropolitan areas, including Boston, New York and San Francisco, more immigrants are employed in white-collar occupations than in lower-wage work like construction, manufacturing or cleaning. The data belie a common perception that the surge in immigration in the last two decades has overwhelmed the United States with low-wage foreign laborers.... The findings are significant because Americans' views of immigration are based largely on the work immigrants do.... The analysis suggests, moreover, that the immigrants played a central role in the cycle of the economic growth of cities over the last two decades. Cities with thriving immigrant populations -- with high-earning and lower-wage workers -- tended to be those that prospered the most." New York Times (April 15, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-9-4808]

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UNEMPLOYMENT

Losing a Job During a Recession. By Molly Dahl and Joyce Manchester, Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) April 22, 2010. 8 p.

Full text at: http://cbo.gov/ftpdocs/114xx/doc11429/JobLoss_Brief.pdf

["This issue brief reviews the research on the short- and long-term effects of involuntary job loss for reasons other than poor performance or misconduct on people's future employment and earnings. In light of the recession that began in December 2007 and the CBO's projection that, under current law, the unemployment rate will remain elevated for a number of years, the brief focuses on the effects of involuntary job loss during periods of weak economic activity. The brief also summarizes some of the government programs that help people who have lost their job."]

[Request #S10-9-4805]

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A Year or More: The High Cost of Long-Term Unemployment. By Scott S. Greenberger and Douglas Walton, Pew Economic Policy Group. (The Group, Washington, DC) April 2010. 22 p.

Full text at:

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Economic_Mobility/PEW-Unemployment%20Final.pdf

["The federal government defines 'long-term unemployment' as a jobless period of six months or longer. In March 2010, over 44 percent of unemployed Americans met or exceeded that standard -- the highest rate since World War II. But a new study goes further by calculating the percentage of people who have been unemployed for a year or more. This analysis further illuminates the extent of the country's long-term unemployment problem and its impact on the nation's fiscal condition. Long-term unemployment cuts across nearly every industry and occupation. Long-term unemployment is occurring among people of all ages. While workers 55 or older are less likely to become unemployed, those who do are more likely to stay unemployed for a long period of time."]

[Request #S10-9-4739]

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WORK CONDITIONS

Just Pay: Improving Wage and Hour Enforcement at the United States Department of Labor. By the National Employment Law Project. (The Project, New York, New York) April 2010. 36 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nelp.org/page/-/Justice/2010/JustPayReport2010.pdf?nocdn=1>

["Too many workers in the United States are not paid for their work, earning below the minimum wage in industries that are at the heart of our economy. Employers in retail, janitorial, hospitality, construction, home care, agriculture and trucking offer subpar wages and then do not pay for overtime hours worked. A national survey of workers in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago found that 26 percent of workers were paid less than the minimum wage, and an astonishing 75 percent were not paid overtime pay in the previous week. The U.S. Department of Labor, the federal agency charged with ensuring fair pay and accepting worker complaints, recently was described as ineffective in a series of GAO reports. This lack of a public enforcement has perpetuated workplace lawlessness and has hurt law-abiding businesses, workers and our economy."]

[Request #S10-9-4812]

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ENERGY

ENERGY POLICY

Realizing the Energy Potential of Methane Hydrate for the United States. By the Committee on Assessment of the Department of Energy's Methane Hydrate Research and Development Program. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) 2010.

["Natural gas, composed mostly of methane, is the cleanest of all the fossil fuels, emitting 25-50% less carbon dioxide than either oil or coal for each unit of energy produced. In recent years, natural gas supplied approximately 20-25% of all energy consumed in the United States. Methane hydrate is a potentially enormous and as yet untapped source of methane. The Department of Energy's Methane Hydrate Research and Development Program has been tasked since 2000 to implement and coordinate a national methane hydrate research effort to stimulate the development of knowledge and technology necessary for commercial production of methane from methane hydrate in a safe and environmentally responsible way."]

[Request #S10-9-4588]

Book. 150 p.

[book](#)

Summary. 22 p.

[summary](#)

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR POLLUTION

From Clean to Clunker: The Economics of Emissions Control. By Sejal Patel, Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy. (The Alliance, Los Angeles, California) April 15, 2010. 17 p.

Full text at: <http://www.laane.org/downloads/FromCleantoClunkerReport.pdf>

["Port truckers are increasingly struggling to meet the financial demands of the Clean Truck Program. The study questions the program's long-term sustainability, saying drivers aren't earning enough to make lease payments, buy insurance, pay road taxes and perform maintenance on low-emission trucks now mandated by Long Beach and Los Angeles port authorities. The study urges Congress to support laws allowing port authorities across the country to voluntarily adopt rules requiring trucking companies -- and not drivers -- be responsible for the purchase and maintenance of new, low-emission rigs.... The study was immediately dismissed by the American Trucking Association, which is suing Los Angeles to prevent the city from requiring port trucking companies own the rigs they dispatch to the waterfront." Long Beach Press-Telegram (April 15, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-9-4788]

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Climate Change Challenges: Vehicle Emissions and Public Health in California.
By Louise Bedsworth, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) March 2010. 40 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=756>

["Motor vehicles are the leading source of both smog-forming and greenhouse gas emissions in California. This report examines several options for reducing motor vehicle emissions. It finds that the most promising choices for public health and climate change are also the most expensive and technologically uncertain. The authors look specifically at battery-electric vehicles, fuel cell vehicles, the use of ethanol blends in flex-fuel vehicles, and scenarios for reducing vehicle miles traveled."]

[Request #S10-9-4797]

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Implementation of AB 32 -- Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. By Tiffany Roberts, California Legislative Analyst's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) April 14, 2010. 8 p.

Full text at:

http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2010/rsrc/ab32_implementation/ab32_implementation_041410.pdf

["The state's AB 32 activities, currently carried out mainly by the Air Resources Board (ARB) but also by eleven other state agencies, will be shifting from the development of plans and regulations to program implementation and enforcement. Legislative oversight of the overall size and components of the AB 32 program budget is very important, particularly given this upcoming shift in the program's focus. In this budget-focused brief, we provide details of the Governor's AB 32 budget proposal and ARB's plan to pay for most of the AB 32 program administrative activities from a new fee. We also offer recommendations to ensure that (1) sufficient resources are devoted to economic analysis of AB 32 measures and (2) future AB 32 expenditures and fees are justified and set at appropriate levels."]

[Request #S10-9-4799]

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GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Smart Growth: A Guide to Developing and Implementing Greenhouse Gas Reduction Programs. By the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (The Agency, Washington, DC) March 2010. 55 p.

Full text at:

http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/documents/pdf/smart_growth_guide.pdf

["Smart growth development, based on 10 key principles, benefits the economy, the community, the environment, and public health. This guide provides information on how local governments have planned, designed, and implemented approaches that encourage smart growth in their communities. It is designed to be used by city planners, local energy managers and sustainability directors, local elected officials, regional planning agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, and citizen groups. Readers of the guide should come away with an understanding of smart growth principles and how they can be applied in practice, foundations and strategies for smart growth development, expected costs, and potential funding opportunities."]

[Request #S10-9-4826]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

GAMBLING

Rincon Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Rincon Reservation v. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California. U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit. 08-55809, 08-55914. April 20, 2010. 97 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2010/04/20/08-55809.pdf>

["California can't demand that Indian tribes share gambling revenue to reduce the state's deficit as the price of expanding their casinos, a court ruled. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's insistence that tribes turn over some of their proceeds to the state general fund amounts to a tax that federal law prohibits.... The dissenter from the 2-1 ruling, Judge Jay Bybee, predicted that 15 California tribes would cite the case as grounds for trying to repudiate revenue-sharing agreements they had previously signed.... In the case before the court, the Schwarzenegger administration was seeking \$38 million of the \$40 million annual profit projected from the Rincon Band's proposed addition of 900 slot machines to the 1,600 it already has at its casino. Schwarzenegger will ask the full appeals court for a rehearing." San Francisco Chronicle (April, 21, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-9-4820]

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Professors and Prison Guards: An Overview of California's State Workforce. By Raúl Macías, California Budget Project. (The Project, Sacramento, California) April 2010. 11 p.

Full text at: http://cbp.org/pdfs/2010/1004_bbg_Professors_and_Prison_Guards.pdf

["This report examines the distribution of state employment among agencies and departments and looks at the major changes that have taken place since the late 1980s. It also examines whether state employment is high in California relative to other states and whether state employment has grown disproportionately.... Most state employees work in education and public safety. The University of California and the California State University account for more than one-third of state employment. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is the second-largest state employer. The CDCR has experienced the largest increase in employment among the major departments. State employment relative to state population is low compared to other states. Excluding corrections, state employment lags population growth."]

[Request #S10-9-4819]

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REDISTRICTING

Redistricting in America: A State-by-State Analysis. By Douglas Johnson and others, Rose Institute of State and Local Government. (The Institute, Claremont, California) April 21, 2010. 58 p.

Full text at: <http://rosereport.org/redistricting-america.pdf>

["The report surveys the legislative and congressional redistricting process in each of the 50 states. It finds that state legislative redistricting systems vary widely, while congressional redistricting has less state-by-state variation. As additional states consider reforming their own redistricting systems, it is important to be aware of the variety of redistricting options. With the 2010 census and 2011 redistricting cycle beginning, observers will have an opportunity to study the success of each model with great precision. The majority of states have implemented no redistricting reforms. Others have adopted 'reformed' systems that allow continued legislative control of the process."]

[Request #S10-9-4818]

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TAXES

Effects of Imposing a Value-Added Tax To Replace Payroll Taxes or Corporate Taxes. By Joseph Rosenberg and Eric Toder, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) March 18, 2010. 39 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412062_VAT.pdf

["This report examines the effects of imposing a new value-added tax (VAT) in the United States and using the revenue raised to lower payroll tax and corporate income tax rates. We summarize how different forms of VAT operate and compare how a VAT, payroll tax, and corporate income treat different sources of income and the different ways each tax distort economic decision-making.... A major concern with a VAT is that it could be regressive, raising tax burdens proportionately more on lower income than on higher income taxpayers. The report provides estimates of the distributional effects by income group of substituting a VAT for cuts in employer contributions to Social Security taxes, the corporate income tax, and a combination of the two taxes."]

[Request #S10-9-4816]

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VOTERS & VOTING

Open Primaries and Top Two Elections: Proposition 14 on California's June 2010 Ballot. By Molly Milligan, Center for Governmental Studies. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) April 2010. 124 p.

Full text at: http://www.cgs.org/images/publications/cgs_top_two_042810.pdf

["One of the key questions in the debate over Proposition 14 is what sort of candidate might prevail under a so-called 'open-primary' system. Proponents of the June ballot measure say switching to a top-two primary system, in which candidates of all political parties run in the primary and the top two vote-getters advance to the general election, would result in electing more moderates. While that could be the case, it could also result in voters in many districts choosing between two members of the same party in the general election. The study found that under the measure, decline-to-state and third-party voters could give a boost to the more moderate candidate for close general elections in districts likely to produce match-ups between two candidates from the same party."]

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HEALTH

MEDICAID

Coverage for Consumers, Savings for States: Options for Modernizing Medicaid. By UnitedHealth Center for Health Reform & Modernization. (The Center, Minnetonka, Minnesota) April 2010. 68 p.

Full text at: http://www.unitedhealthgroup.com/hrm/UNH_WorkingPaper3.pdf

["California could see a 27 percent increase in those receiving medical care under Medi-Cal, the federal-state program that serves low-income residents, under a major provision of the newly adopted overhaul of national health care. But the report also says that California could offset the higher costs and much more by upgrading its medical care delivery system. In fact, it could save 10 times as much as those extra costs.... UnitedHealth says its recommendations for streamlining health care delivery, if adopted, could save the nation \$366 billion over the next decade. The proposals include better coordination of care, greater use of managed care for recipients with long-term needs and modernizing Medicaid's administrative and financial procedures." Sacramento Bee (April 15, 2010) 1.]

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The Essentials: Medicare and Medicaid. By The MetLife Mature Market Institute. (The Institute, New York, New York) 2010. 40 p.

Full text at: <http://www.metlife.com/assets/cao/mmi/publications/essentials/mmi-essentials-medicare-medicaid.pdf>

["Medicare is a Federal program which is administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. For many Americans Medicare is their only source of health insurance. It is not, however, all-inclusive in its coverage. It also has premiums, deductibles, and other costs associated with it. While Medicaid must meet certain Federal standards, it is a state-run program, with each state having its own rules surrounding eligibility and coverage. Some individuals are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. This educational guide serves as a general introduction to the two programs. It gives an overview of how each program works by answering frequently asked questions. It also gives a listing of additional resources for those who are looking for more detailed information about either program."]

[Request #S10-9-4841]

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RESEARCH

A Human Health Perspective On Climate Change: A Report Outlining the Research Needs on the Human Health Effects of Climate Change. By the Interagency Working Group on Climate Change and Health. (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina) April 2010. 80 p.

Full text at: <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/docs/climatereport2010.pdf>

["The environmental consequences of climate change, both those already observed and those that are anticipated, such as sea-level rise, changes in precipitation resulting in flooding and drought, heat waves, more intense hurricanes and storms, and degraded air quality, will affect human health both directly and indirectly.... Most investigations of climate change and health have relied on environmental and ecological effects to extrapolate potential human health impacts. We deliberately chose to emphasize the need for research on human health outcomes over environmental impacts for this reason: this approach highlights direct links between climate change and federal research priorities that are often disease- or outcome-specific, and a focus on human health outcomes enables a holistic approach to exploring climate change-related health impacts."]
[Request #S10-9-4839]

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN

Children's Mental Health: What Every Policymaker Should Know. By Shannon Stagman and Janice L. Cooper, National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) April 2010. 8 p.

Full text at: http://nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_929.pdf

["Mental health is a key component in a child's healthy development; children need to be healthy in order to learn, grow, and lead productive lives. The mental health service delivery system in its current state does not sufficiently meet the needs of children and youth, and most who are in need of mental health services are not able to access them. With the addition of effective treatments, services, and supports, the mental health system can become better equipped to help children and youth with mental health problems, or those who are at risk, to thrive and live successfully."]
[Request #S10-9-4822]

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POVERTY

The Effects of Citizenship on Family Income and Poverty. By Heidi Shierholz, Economic Policy Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) February 24, 2010. 12 p.

Full text at: http://epi.3cdn.net/26151985cc0098523e_70m6ii0ux.pdf

["The figures at the beginning of this paper show that citizen immigrants have much better economic outcomes than non-citizen immigrants. How much of those differences can be attributed to citizenship status itself? There is an inherent 'endogeneity' problem in any attempt to answer that question, namely that citizen and non-citizen immigrants are different on a wide variety of measures that are also related to income and poverty, making it difficult to isolate the impact of citizenship.... Once we control for observable characteristics, we find that the average income of adult citizen immigrants is 14.6% higher, and the poverty rate 3.0 percentage points lower, than that of adult non-citizen immigrants."]
[Request #S10-9-4661]

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YOUTH

Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health: Facts for Policymakers. By Susan Wile Schwarz, National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) April 2010. 4 p.

Full text at: http://nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_931.pdf

["During adolescence, the body undergoes significant developmental changes, most notably puberty, the bodily changes of sexual maturation, and the formation of sexual identity. Achieving reproductive and sexual health requires more than preventing unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, it includes developing the ability to form and maintain meaningful relationships with others and with one's own body. Psychological, social, educational, environmental, and economic factors, among others, all play a role. In addition, adolescents are more likely to engage in risk-taking behaviors than either younger children or adults. Reproductive and sexual health form part of a complex web of potential challenges to adolescents' healthy emotional and physical development."]
[Request #S10-9-4823]

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Cost-Benefit Analysis of Reclaiming Futures. By John Roman and others, Reclaiming Futures. (Reclaiming Futures, Portland, Oregon) March 2010. 40 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1001361_reclaimingfutures.pdf

["Launched in 2001, Reclaiming Futures was a multimillion dollar initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to develop community-based solutions to juvenile drug use and delinquency. Reclaiming Futures was designed as a collaborative partnership between juvenile justice practitioners, treatment providers, and communities with the common goal of developing comprehensive and integrated systems of care for drug-involved youth. Ten communities across the United States participated in the demonstration between 2002 and 2007.... A national evaluation of Reclaiming Futures suggested that the 10 communities involved in the pilot phase of the initiative were generally successful. The study showed significant improvements in the 10 sites overall."]

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TRANSPORTATION

LAND USE

Driving and the Built Environment: The Effects of Compact Development on Motorized Travel, Energy Use, and CO2 Emissions. By the Committee for the Study on the Relationships Among Development Patterns, Vehicle Miles Traveled, and Energy Consumption, National Research Council. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) 2009.

["The most reliable studies estimate that doubling residential density across a metropolitan area might lower household VMT by 5 to 12 percent, and perhaps by as much as 25 percent, if coupled with higher employment concentrations, significant public transit improvements, mixed uses, and other supportive demand management measures.... Significant increases in more compact, mixed-use development result in only modest short-term reductions in energy consumption and CO2 emissions, but these reductions will grow over time.... Changes in development patterns entail other benefits and costs that have not been quantified in this study."]

[Request #S10-9-4630]

Book. 256 p.

[book](#)

Executive Summary. 31 p.

[summary](#)

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MOTORCYCLES

Evaluation of State Motorcycle Safety Programs. By Justin Baer and others, American Institutes for Research. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC) February 2010. 36 p.

Full text at: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811269.PDF>

["The rise in motorcycle injuries and fatalities over the past decade has placed greater emphasis on the role that State motorcycle safety programs may play in making roadways safer for riders. From programs targeted at motorcyclists to comprehensive training for law enforcement and court personnel, State programs are tasked with implementing and monitoring a range of safety policies and procedures. This report describes the current efforts States are undertaking to promote motorcycle safety, drawing on a survey received from State Highway Safety Offices and State motorcycle safety administrators in 45 States. The results presented in this report provide a picture of recent accomplishments made by States related to motorcycle safety."]

[Request #S10-9-4825]

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TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

The United We Ride National Dialogue: Final Report. By Gregory Lashutka and others, National Academy of Public Administration. (The Academy, Washington, DC) February 2010. 34 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.uwrdialogue.org/UWR.National%20Dialogue%20Final%20Report-1-Feb.2010.pdf>

["The United We Ride National Dialogue brought together key stakeholders using collaborative web-based technologies to discuss the following broad question: What ideas can improve access to affordable and reliable transportation for people with disabilities, older adults, and people with limited incomes?... The UWR Dialogue allowed participants to submit ideas, as well as tag, rate, and comment on ideas, helping to provide a comprehensive and actionable list of top ideas and key themes that would not have been possible using only traditional methods of public policy formation. The platform is based on the principle of 'radical scalability' which allows participants' preferences and priorities to be more clearly sorted as greater numbers of people participate."]

[Request #S10-9-4634]

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