NCSL & NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICES (NALFO) UPDATES

✓ Help celebrate Legislative Staff Week! In December, NCSL will be celebrating legislative staff by posting “shoutouts” from one legislative staffer to another. Please fill out this quick survey to tell us about a great legislative staffer you know.

✓ The 2018 NCSL Capitol Forum will be taking place Dec. 5-7 in Washington, D.C. Legislators and legislative staff must register by Nov. 20 to receive the early bird registration rate of $400. Visit the Capitol Forum webpage to find out further details.

✓ The 2018 NCSL Fiscal Analysts Seminar took place Oct. 10-12 in Portland, Ore. The presentations and resources from the meeting are now available on the NCSL website.

STATE NEWS & REPORTS

✓ Alaska. The Division of Legislative Finance published a new informational paper, “The Impact of Permanent Fund Dividends (PFD) on Deficits.” The links highlight key takeaway points and an interactive Excel sheet that provides projections for varying PFD levels.

✓ Illinois. The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability released an update on wagering in the state. It found that the state’s share of tax revenues from wagering reached $1.356 billion in FY 2018, which is a 3.5 percent increase over FY 2017.

✓ Kansas. The Legislative Research Department authored a briefing book article looking at its homestead program. According to the article, Kansas became the sixth state to enact a “circuit-breaker” style of property tax relief when its law was enacted in 1970.

✓ Ohio. The Legislative Service Commission released its 2018 Ohio Facts, which provides a broad overview of the economy, public finances and major government programs.

✓ Texas. The Legislative Budget Board updated the Fiscal Size-Up Expenditure and Appropriation Detail interactive graphic. It shows the appropriated, budgeted, and expended amounts by agency and method of finance for fiscal years 2016-2019.
**Washington.** The Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee and the Office of Financial Management jointly maintain the [Fiscal Information website](http://www.wa.gov). It contains an [interactive graphic](http://www.wa.gov) looking at the state's operating budget.

**FEDERAL NEWS & REPORTS**

- The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco published an economic letter looking at “[The Slope of the Yield Curve and the Near-Term Outlook](https://www.frbsf.org/publication/economic-letter/).” It found that the recent flattening of the yield curve implies only a slightly elevated risk of a recession in the near term relative to any other month.


- The Bureau of Labor Statistics examined how employment has performed a decade after the non-farm employment peak in Jan. 2008. The analysis found that some industries have recovered and expanded, but some have not been as successful.

**OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

- The Mercatus Center at George Mason University released its [State Fiscal Rankings](http://www.mercatus.org) for 2018. This study measures how well states can meet short-term and long-term bills by examining financial statements.

- The Economic Innovation Group released its 2018 Distressed Communities Index. The [report](http://www.economicinnovationgroup.org) highlights the findings of the index, and the [interactive map](http://www.economicinnovationgroup.org) provides ZIP-code-level detail on the economic well-being of U.S. communities.

- The Center for State and Local Government Excellence released an [issue brief](http://www.csgc.org) examining the stability in overall pension plan funding.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- Visit the NCSL [Fiscal Affairs Program homepage](http://www.ncsl.org).
- Visit the [NALFO homepage](http://www.nalfo.org).
- Consult a [list of Legislative Fiscal Offices](http://www.nalfo.org) that maintain a webpage.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list for *The Fiscal Link*, or know a legislator or legislative staff person who should be added, just ask Savannah Gilmore or Erica MacKellar.

**NOTE:** Links to external websites and reports are for information purposes only and do not indicate NCSL's endorsement of the content on those sites.