CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS

1. Cannon, Lou. "Voter ID." Capitol Journal. Vol. XXII. No. 15. May 19, 2014. pg. 1-4. (A series of state and federal courts have slowed the steady march toward stricter voter identification requirements. It is still too early to know what impact those legal decisions will have.)

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES


COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA

3. Greenberg, Pam. "Something to like." Capitol Ideas. Vol. 40. No. 4. April 2014. pg. 16-20. (Social media offers lawmakers a way to keep citizens informed and to share unfiltered perspectives about state issues that are receiving dwindling coverage through more traditional media outlets.)

CORRECTIONS

4. Lawrence, Alison. "Managing corrections costs." National Conference of State Legislatures. Denver, CO. Feb. 2014. 18 pg. (This report examines corrections budget trends, cost-conserving changes to sentencing and corrections policies, actions taken to operate prisons more efficiently, and federal initiatives that provide support and assistance to states.)

COURTS


6. Anderson, Tim. "Full court pressure." Stateline Midwest. Vol. 23. No. 4. April 2014. pg. 1+. (Recent Supreme Court decision in Kansas is a reminder of the power of judiciary to shape state school funding.)

DRUGS & DRUG TESTING


DRUNKEN DRIVING

8. Wines, Lawrence E. DWI Experts and the Science of Chemical Tests. second edition. published by the Missouri Bar. Jefferson City, MO. KFM 8097.8.W5. 2014. (Experts for driving while intoxicated cases come from many disciplines and have various levels of experience, and some caution should be taken when choosing an expert.)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

10. Tomaka, Laura. "Illinois panel holding hearings on whether tax-break programs for business really help state economy." Stateline Midwest. Vol. 23. No. 4. April 2014. pg. 3. (A series of high-profile requests by companies wanting special tax breaks from Illinois in order to stay in the state have raised questions about whether the state's business incentive programs actually result in job and economic growth.)


EDUCATION

12. Wheeler, Charles N. III. "One plan to change school funding shines without pizzazz. Illinois Issues. Vol. XI. No. 5. May 2014. pg. 37-38. (As Illinois General Assembly girds for the final month of its spring session, the spotlight is on a handful of high-profile issues, topped by crafting a budget for the 2015 fiscal year that starts July 1.)

13. Anderson, Tim. "Full court pressure." Stateline Midwest. Vol. 23. No. 4. April 2014. pg. 1+. (Recent Supreme Court decision in Kansas is a reminder of the power of judiciary to shape state school funding.)

14. "Returning 'decision' to school discipline decisions: an analysis of recent, anti-zero-tolerance legislation." Washington University Law Review. Vol. 91. No. 3. 2014. pg. 757-784. (This note surveys the harm of zero tolerance policies raised by numerous scholars over the past 15 years and focuses on recent legislative efforts to discourage and eliminate these policies.)


EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES

17. Mahler, Patten Priestly, et al. "Improving public pensions: balancing competing priorities." Brown Center on Education Policy at Brookings. Feb. 2014. 31 pg. (In this article, the authors lay out clear framework to evaluate proposed reforms to public pension systems with the overarching goal of balancing the sometimes competing interests of public employees and taxpayers.) VF: Public Employment Retirement System.

18. "Many minimum wages." State Policy Reports. Vol. 32. Issue 7. April 2014. pg. 2-5. (Will the federal government increase the minimum wage? While efforts to do so have failed to gather steam, many states have taken action.)

ENVIRONMENT

19. Roberts, Anne. "Waste storage and water safety: lessons from West Virginia and North Carolina." A regional resource from the SLC. Southern Legislative Conference. April 2014. 8 pg. (This SLC regional resource examines spills in West Virginia and North Carolina and the immediate remedial action taken by each state.)

ETHICS

FINANCE & REVENUE

21. "Old but good news." State Policy Reports. Vol. 32. Issue 7. April 2014. pg. 5-7. (The U.S. Census Bureau recently released state-by-state data on tax collections, and data confirms it was a good year in comparison to the years that preceded.)

22. Fullerton, Don & Christopher Z. Mooney. "It's complicated." Illinois Issues. Vol. XI. No. 5. May 2014. pg. 28-30. (This article takes a look at some of the larger political and economic forces that impinge on public budget-making.)


GAMBLING


HEALTH, WELFARE & SOCIAL SERVICES

25. Hill, Steven C. et al. "Adults in the income range for The Affordable Care Act's Medicaid Expansion are healthier than Pre-ACA enrollees." Health Affairs. Vol. 33. No. 4. April 2014. pg. 691-699. (The Affordable Care Act has dramatically increased the number of low-income nonelderly adults eligible for Medicaid. Starting in 2014, states can elect to cover individuals and families with modified gross incomes below a threshold of 133% of federal poverty guidelines, with 5% income disregard.)

26. Sommers, Benjamin D. et al. "Medicaid and marketplace eligibility changes will occur often in all states; policy options can ease impact." Health Affairs. Vol. 33. No. 4. April 2014. pg. 700-706. (ACA is likely to produce frequent transitions in eligibility for Medicaid & health insurance marketplace coverage for low to middle income adults (churning.) This article provides state-by-state estimates of potential eligibility changes if all states expanded Medicaid under health reform.)


28. Tobler, Laura. "Providing health care coverage for former inmates." Legisbrief. Vol. 22. No. 15. May 2014. 2 pg. (Among the challenges people being released from correctional facilities face is not having the resources to obtain the health care services they need to be successful in their communities.) VF: Medical treatment.


30. Coughlin, Teresa A., et al. "An estimated $84.9 billion in uncompensated care was provided in 2013; ACA payment cuts could challenge providers." Health Affairs. Vol. 33. No. 5. May 2014. pg. 807-813. (How levels of uncompensated care and funding for that care will affect specific health care providers remains unclear. It will be essential for federal, state and local policy makers, providers, and consumer advocates to monitor the many changes that will affect the provision of uncompensated care for uninsured people-a group expected to number 30 million in 2017.)

32. Miller, Debra. "Update on the Affordable Care Act." Capitol Ideas. Vol. 57. No. 3. May/June 2014. pg. 18-21. (This article offers updates on what's going on with regard to health care reform.)


IMMIGRATION

34. Zingher, Joshua N. "The ideological and electoral determinants of laws targeting undocumented migrants in the U.S. states." State Politics & Policy Quarterly. Vol. 14. No. 1. March 2014. pg. 90-117. (The author develops a framework that explains how party ideology, party control of the legislature, and electoral conditions affect the likelihood that a state legislature will adopt policies that increase immigration enforcement.)

INSURANCE

35. Hill, Steven C. et al. "Adults in the income range for The Affordable Care Act's Medicaid Expansion are healthier than Pre-ACA enrollees." Health Affairs. Vol. 33. No. 4. April 2014. pg. 691-699. (The Affordable Care Act has dramatically increased the number of low-income nonelderly adults eligible for Medicaid. Starting in 2014, states can elect to cover individuals and families with modified gross incomes below a threshold of 133% of federal poverty guidelines, with 5% income disregard.)

36. "Governors." Capitol Journal. Vol. XXII. No. 15. May 19, 2014. pg. 9. (Indiana Gov. Mike Pence has unveiled his latest alternative proposal to expanding Medicaid as called for under the federal Affordable Care Act.)


38. Sommers, Benjamin. "Insurance cancellations in context: stability of coverage in the nongroup market prior to health reform." Health Affairs. Vol. 33. No. 5. May 2014. pg. 887-893. (Recent plan cancellations may not have an impact that is markedly different from the normal turnover in this market. This analysis can also provide a nationally representative estimate of baseline coverage stability in this market.)


40. Miller, Debra. "Update on the Affordable Care Act." Capitol Ideas. Vol. 57. No. 3. May/June 2014. pg. 18-21. (This article offers updates on what's going on with regard to health care reform.)

PRIVACY

41. Greenberg, Pam. "Social media privacy laws." Legisbrief. Vol. 22. No. 16. April 2014. 2 pg. (For many employees and employers, the boundary between home and work life is now blurred. Employees use social media sites, computers and mobile devices, whether it's their own, their employers' or both, for work and personal reasons. However, this new culture raises questions about how to balance the privacy concerns of applicants and employees.) VF: Privacy-electronic.

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43. Encyclopedia of Associations. 2014. 3 vol. Gale, Cenage Learning. Ref q AS 22.E5. 2014. (This acclaimed, long-standing series provides detailed information on organizations around the world, published as three individual titles.)

44. State Directory. Spring 2014. Carroll Publishing. Ref q JK 2679.87x. 647 pg. (Complete contact information for over 30,000 key executive, legislative and judicial officials in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Pacific Territories.)

SCIENTIFIC ISSUES


STATE & FEDERAL RELATIONS

46. "What the census can't tell you (anymore.)" State Policy Reports. Vol. 32. Issue 8. April 2014. pg. 1-9. (The Census Bureau at one time published an annual report that provided a thorough accounting of the major flows of federal funds into states. Federal Funds Information for States allows states to get a good grasp on one component of that report-grant funding—which is detailed here.)

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

47. Green, Andrew D. "County governments and democratic decision making: explaining why counties seek approval of local option sales tax." State Politics & Policy Quarterly. Vol. 14. No. 1. March 2014. pg. 50-71. (Using demographic, fiscal and political variables, a model is developed that explains the decision to place a local option sales tax on the ballot.)


51. Weiss, Suzanne. "Reinventing Michigan." State Legislatures. Vol. 40. No. 5. May 2014. pg. 14-22. (As the nation began descending into economic crisis in early 2008, no state was falling faster or further than Michigan. The extent to which the state has managed to pull itself out of that hole over the past four years has drawn considerable attention.)

52. Wolf, Mark. "Rural legislators dig in." State Legislatures. Vol. 40. No. 5. May 2014. pg. 30-33. (As farming communities dry up, so does their influence in statehouses, pushing rural lawmakers to ask "What's more important than food?")

TAXATION

53. Musser, Ashley. "Earned income tax credits: a primer." LRU. First Reading. Vol. 27. No. 2 March 2014. pg5-7. (This article gives details on the federal EITC and state EITC's where they are offered.)
TOBACCO


TRANSPORTATION

55. Reed, James B. "The growing use of transportation public-private partnerships." Legisbrief. Vol. 22. No. 19. May 2014. 2 pg. (Public-private partnerships, or P3's, are increasingly being used as a way to bridge the financial gap states face as they try to improve roads and bridges with declining revenues.) VF: Transportation.