CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS

1. "Uniformity in voting systems: looking at the crazy quilt of election technology." NCSL. The Canvass. Issue 70. June 2016. 6 pgs. (Since the late 1800's, the decision of whether to use voting machines to help tabulate votes, and which machines to use, has traditionally been left up to local jurisdictions.)

CHARTER SCHOOLS

2. Prothero, Arianna. "The evolution of the chartered school." Education Week. Vol. 35. No. 34. June 8, 2016. pg. 1+. (25 years ago this month, tucked in a voluminous education funding bill headed to the Minnesota governor's desk, was a quirky and contentious idea to allow teachers and parents to create a new kind of public school-chartered schools.)

CIVIL RIGHTS


CRIME & CRIMINAL JUSTICE


6. Goldman, Roger. "Importance of state law in police reform." Saint Louis University Law Journal. Vol. 60. No. 3. Spring 2016. pg. 363-390. (This article discusses the shortcomings of state law, point out current state laws that have been effective in addressing police misconduct, analyze the new laws enacted since Michael Brown's death in Ferguson in August 2014 and, suggest ways that the federal government can work with the states to improve police accountability.)
DRUGS & DRUG TESTING


8. Bao, Yuhua, et al. "Prescription drug monitoring programs are associated with sustained reductions in opioid prescribing by physicians." *Health Affairs*. Vol. 35. No. 6. June 2016. pg.1045-1051. (State prescription drug monitoring programs are promising tools to rein in the epidemic of prescription opioid overdose. This article uses data from a national survey to assess the effects of these programs on the prescribing of opioid analgesics and other pain medications in the ambulatory care settings at the point of care in 24 states from 2001-2010.)

9. Vestal, Christine. "In fighting an opioid epidemic, medication assisted treatment is effective but underused." *Health Affairs*. Vol. 35. No. 6. June 2016. pg. 1052-1057. (Doctors need more support staff to treat addiction patients than is typically affordable in a small primary care setting.)


11. Hendrickson, Hollie. "Prescription for pain management. 10 state strategies." *NCSL*. Feb. 2016. 6 pg. (In 2015, 30 states enacted at least 56 laws that aim to prevent deaths and overdoses from prescription drugs. With increased pubic policy responses to prevent these deaths, concerns exist that legitimate users of prescription painkillers may face barriers to filling prescriptions because of more restrictive state rules.) VF: Drugs-Prescription.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT


EDUCATION

13. *The state of preschool 2015*. State Preschool Yearbook. The National Institute for Early Education Research. 2015. 187 pg. (The 2015 Yearbook is organized into three major sections. The first section offers a summary of the data and describes national trends in enrollment, quality standards, and spending for state-funded preschool. This year, a special supplemental section on state pre-K policies to support Dual Language Learners and the Workforce is also included. The second section presents detailed profiles outlining each state’s policies with respect to preschool access, quality standards, and resources for the 2014-2015 year. A description of our methodology follows the state profiles, and the last section of the report contains appendices. The appendices include tables that provide the complete 2014-2015 survey data obtained from every state, as well as Head Start, child care, U.S. Census, and special education data. This year, additional appendices are included that show the complete supplemental survey data on Dual Language Learners and the workforce.) Ref LB 1140.23.S797 2015
Prothero, Arianna. "The evolution of the chartered school." *Education Week*. Vol. 35. No. 34. June 8, 2016. pg. 1+. (25 years ago this month, tucked in a voluminous education funding bill headed to the Minnesota governor's desk, was a quirky and contentious idea to allow teachers and parents to create a new kind of public school-chartered schools.)

**EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES**

15. "State minimum wages mostly track cost of living." *State Policy Reports*. Vol. 34. Issue 11. June 2016. pg. 2-5. (Calls to raise the federal minimum wage often overlook the fact that more than half the states have minimum wages that are higher than the federal rate. A few states are on track to raise their rates to $15 per hour.)

**ENERGY**


**FINANCE & REVENUE**


**GAMBLING**


**HEALTH, WELFARE & SOCIAL SERVICES**

19. Moore, Roger. "Spread of Zika: impact on southern states." SLC. May 2016. 12 pg. (As a result of relatively favorable climate conditions for disease carrying Aedes mosquitoes, many SLC member states are particularly vulnerable to limited outbreaks over the next several months.)

20. "Climbing Medicaid clawbacks." *State Policy Reports*. Vol. 34. No. 9. May 2016. pg.5-7. (Federal Funds Information for States reports on rising costs associated with state payments to the federal government for Medicare Part D, known as the "clawback." These payments have seen double digit increases in the past two years.)

**HOUSING**

INSURANCE


MENTAL HEALTH


25. Hogan, Michael F. & Julie Goldstein Grumet. "Suicide prevention: an emerging priority for health care." Health Affairs. Vol. 35. No. 6. June 2016. pg. 1084-1090. (Many suicide deaths are among people recently seen or currently under care in clinical settings, but suicide prevention has not been a core priority in health care. In recent years, new treatment and management strategies have been developed, tested, and implemented in some organizations, but they are not yet widely used.)

PENSIONS & RETIREMENT


SCIENTIFIC ISSUES


STATE & FEDERAL RELATIONS

29. "A tale of decline, excepting Medicaid." State Policy Reports. Vol. 34. No. 9. May 2016. pg. 2-5. (Federal Funds Information for States recently released an analysis of federal grants that compares each state's receipt of fiscal year 2015 funding on a per capita basis. The national average was $1,827, an increase of $170 from the previous year.)
30. "Climbing Medicaid clawbacks." *State Policy Reports*. Vol. 34. No. 9. May 2016. pg.5-7. (Federal Funds Information for States reports on rising costs associated with state payments to the federal government for Medicare Part D, known as the "clawback." These payments have see double digit increases in the past two years.)

**STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT**


**TAXATION**

34. "If every state taxed marijuana." *State Policy Reports*. Vol. 34. Issue 11. June 2016. pg.5-7. (Imagine if states had an extra $7.1 billion per year to spend on public goods and services. That's the amount of new revenue the Tax Foundation estimates states would collect with a 20% sales tax levied on the retail sale of marijuana.)

**TECHNOLOGY ISSUES**

35. "Domestic drones. balancing privacy and safety with innovation and opportunity." *Congressional Digest*. Vol. 95. No. 6. June 2016. pg. 1+. (Government agencies employ drones for search and find operations, border patrol, wildlife monitoring, wildfire containment, mapping, scientific research, and many other applications-and they are also a popular consumer device. The current legal landscape for drone use is a patchwork of FAA guidelines, policy announcements from the White House and state laws.)

**TRANSPORTATION**


**WOMEN & MINORITIES**