ANIMALS

CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
5. Miller, Debra. “Private prisons-grade: incomplete.” Capitol Ideas. Vol. 56. No. 2. Mar/Apr 2013. Pg. 36-37. (While states have been privatizing prisons since the 1980's, the jury is still out on whether such actions are successful.)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
8. Lawrence, Edward et al. “A review of state tax incentive programs for creating jobs.” Journal of State Taxation. Vol. 31. No. 3. March/April 2013. Pg. 25-32. (The authors of this article review state tax incentive programs and evaluate some of the economic benefits and costs of these programs.)

12. Mazerov, Michael. “Cutting state personal income taxes won’t help small business create jobs and may harm state economies.” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Feb. 19, 2013. 18 pg. (Cutting state personal income taxes not only won’t promote small business growth and job creation, it is also likely over time to threaten the success of entrepreneurs by taking resources away from critical services like education.) VF: Income Tax-State.

13. Leachman, Michael et al. “State personal income tax cuts: a poor strategy for economic growth.” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. March 21, 2013. 8 pg. (States that enacted major personal income tax cuts in the 2000’s, before the most recent recession hit, were as likely to lose economic ground as to gain it.) VF: Income Tax-States.

EDUCATION


16. “Career/Technical Education. Not your father’s vocational education.” The Progress of Education Reform. Vol. 14. No. 1. Feb. 2013. 7 pg. (In recent years, career/technical education (CTE) has risen to the top of the education policy agenda for governors, legislators, and agency heads. As a result of informed interest among key education leaders, the CTE policies and programs being advocated and implemented today bear little resemblance to those in place not long ago.)


FINANCE & REVENUE

18. “‘KS glide path’ to no income tax not smooth.” Capitol Journal. Vol. XXI. No. 6. NPR. Pg. 6-7. (Kansas eliminated the state income tax for about 190,000 small businesses and lowered the rate for high-income earners. Gov. Sam Brownback-R says he’s put the state on a “glide path to zero” income taxes.)


HEALTH, WELFARE & SOCIAL SERVICES

20. Tormey, Kate. “‘Fragmented’ mental health systems target of reform.” Stateline Midwest. Vol. 22. No. 2. Feb. 2013. Pg. 1-7. (This report discusses the widespread nature of mental health issues in this country, and the gap between those who are struggling and the care they need.)

21. Dunn, Jamey. “Strained, the state of mental health funding in Illinois is ill.” Illinois Issues. Vol. XXXIX. No. 3. March 2013. (Recent high-profile tragedies have prompted states to reassess their mental health care systems, and showing dismal results.)


26. Shern, David & Wayne Lindstrom. “After Newtown: mental illness and violence.” Health Affairs. March 2013. Vol. 32. No. 3. Pg. 447-450. (In the wake of the latest mass shooting, there are calls to marshal the evidence and take steps to identify and treat mental illness early in life.)

27. Horwitz, Jill R. et al. “Wellness incentives in the workplace: cost savings through cost shifting to unhealthy workers.” Health Affairs. March 2013. Vol. 32. No. 3. P. 468-476. (The authors provide evidence that suggests that savings to employers may come from cost shifting, with the most vulnerable employees probably bearing greater costs that in effect subsidize their healthier colleagues.)

28. Gowrisankaran, Gautam et al. “A hospital system’s wellness program linked to health plan enrollment cut hospitalizations but not overall costs.” Health Affairs. March 2013. Vol. 32. No. 3. P. 477-485. (The author’s findings underscore that wellness program incentives under the Affordable Care Act are unlikely to greatly reduce health care spending over the short term.)

29. Blumenthal, Karen J. et al. “Medicaid incentive programs to encourage healthy behavior shows mixed results to date and should be studied and improved.” Health Affairs. March 2013. Vol. 32. No. 3. P. 497-507. (The authors’ findings suggest that Medicaid incentive programs should be designed so that enrollees can understand them and so that the incentives are attractive enough to motivate participation-and Medicaid incentive programs should also be subject to rigorous evaluation to more clearly establish their effectiveness.)

30. Joynt, Karen E. et al. “Insurance expansion in Massachusetts did not reduce access among previously insured Medicare patients.” Health Affairs. March 2013. Vol. 32. No. 3. P. 571-577. (The authors’ findings should offer some reassurance that it is possible to expand access to uninsured Americans without negatively affecting important clinical outcomes for those who are already insured.)

31. Scott, Dylan. “Back from the war and on their own.” Governing. Vol. 26. No. 6. March 2013. Pg. 30-35. (Returning veterans often find that help is hard to come by, especially from the federal government. Some states and localities are stepping in to fill the void.)

INSURANCE

32. “What is an ‘essential health benefit’ package, and how have states implemented this new federal requirement?” Stateline Midwest. Vol. 22. No. 2. Feb. 2013. Pg. 5. (Under the federal Affordable Care Act, all individual and small-group plans available in state health care exchanges must cover certain services, or “essential health benefits.”)

PRIVATIZATION


34. Miller, Debra. “Private prisons-grade: incomplete.” Capitol Ideas. Vol. 56. No. 2. Mar/Apr 2013. Pg. 36-37. (While states have been privatizing prisons since the 1980's, the jury is still out on whether such actions are successful.)
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

35. “Diverging incomes: the new normal?” State Policy Reports. Vol. 31. Issue 3. Feb. 2013. Pg. 2-10. (Income trends over the last several years show that those with the highest incomes have seen gains and those with lowest incomes have seen stagnation and even losses. A new study presents the data by state.)


TAXATION

41. “Budget & taxes.” Capitol Journal. Vol. XXI. No. 6. Pg. 4-5. From the Washington Post. (On the final day of their legislative session, Virginia lawmakers approved a plan overhauling the way the state will pay for its roads, highways, and mass transit.)

42. Clark, Korey. “Online sales tax push continues despite disappointing returns.” Capitol Journal. Vol. XXI. No. 7. Pg. 1-3. (States have long been after online retailers to collect sales tax on their customers’ purchases. But new data shows that online taxes are not all they have been made out to be.)


44. Mazerov, Michael. “Cutting state personal income taxes won’t help small business create jobs and may harm state economies.” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Feb. 19, 2013. 18 pg. (Cutting state personal income taxes not only won’t promote small business growth and job creation, it is also likely over time to threaten the success of entrepreneurs by taking resources away from critical services like education.) VF: Income Tax-State.

45. Leachman, Michael et al. “State personal income tax cuts: a poor strategy for economic growth.” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. March 21, 2013. 8 pg. (States that enacted major personal income tax cuts in the 2000’s, before the most recent recession hit, were as likely to lose economic ground as to gain it.) VF: Income Tax-States.

TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

TRANSPORTATION
47. “Budget & taxes.” Capitol Journal. Vol. XXI. No. 6. Pg. 4-5. From the Washington Post. (On the final day of their legislative session, Virginia lawmakers approved a plan overhauling the way the state will pay for its roads, highways, and mass transit.)


50. Scott, Dylan. “Back from the war and on their own.” Governing. Vol. 26. No. 6. March 2013. Pg. 30-35. (Returning veterans often find that help is hard to come by, especially from the federal government. Some states and localities are stepping in to fill the void.)