



SEPTEMBER 2014

THE FISCAL LINK: *Your On-Line Connection to the Latest Fiscal Information in the States*

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

- ✓ The 2014 Fiscal Analysts Seminar will take place in Seattle, October 20-22. This year's meeting will feature program tracks on Revenue Forecasting and Tax Policy, Transportation, Corrections and Health Care in addition to plenary discussions aimed at developing and honing fiscal and analytical skills. [View](#) the latest information on the meeting.
- ✓ NCSL's State and Local Taxation Task Force is hosting a [free webinar](#) on Friday, October 3, at 3 p.m. ET. The webinar will delve into a recently completed report examining the best practices for state tax expenditures.

STATE NEWS & REPORTS

- ✓ **Colorado.** The Legislative Council published an [issue brief](#) examining the size of state and local government compared to the state's economy.
- ✓ **Connecticut.** The Office of Fiscal Analysis published an [analysis](#) of the governor's plans for allocating several health and human services federal block grants in FY 2015.
- ✓ **Oregon.** The Legislative Revenue Office published a [report](#) estimating potential state revenue from ballot measure 91, which would legalize recreational marijuana in the state. The brief also contains information from Colorado and Washington.
- ✓ **Virginia.** The Joint Legislative Audit and Review published a draft [report](#) examining funding strategies to encourage local government and school division consolidation.
- ✓ **Wisconsin.** The Legislative Fiscal Bureau released a [memo](#) outlining the state's process for dealing with a revenue shortfall, and provides an estimate of Wisconsin's current revenue shortfall.

FEDERAL NEWS & REPORTS

- ✓ The Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Liberty Street Economics [Blog](#) examined why more renters are

not purchasing homes. The blog uses data from the New York Fed's Survey of Consumer Expectations.

- ✓ The U.S. Census Bureau issued a [press release](#) highlighting college enrollment. The release highlighted that enrollment dropped for the second year in a row.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

- ✓ The Government Accounting Standard's Board (GASB) has developed a [survey](#) to gather feedback from users of government information. Please take a moment to take the survey to help GASB inform its assessment of the effectiveness of Statement No. 34 and related standards.
- ✓ The Rockefeller Institute of Government published a [data alert](#) showing a drop in personal income tax collections during the second quarter of FY 2014. The report notes this drop was largely anticipated from taxpayers shifting income into tax year 2013.
- ✓ The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities published [research](#) on the slow economic recovery, poverty rates and middle incomes using Census Bureau data.
- ✓ The Pew Charitable Trusts published a [fact sheet](#) examining how states can study their revenue volatility and improve their rainy day funds.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- ✓ Visit the NCSL [Fiscal Affairs Program homepage](#).
- ✓ Visit the [NALFO homepage](#).
- ✓ Consult a [list of Legislative Fiscal Offices](#) that maintain a Web page.
- ✓ View the online NALFO [Directory](#).

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 [Erica Michel](#).

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.

