CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS

1. Lee, Chisun et al. "After Citizens United: the history in the states." Brennan Center for Justice. 2014. 46 pg. (This report's review of increased outside spending in the high stakes state and local arenas, recent collaboration tactics, and states' laws and enforcement approaches, provides the basis for a number of clear recommendations.) VF: Campaign Finance.

2. McCann, Meghan & Wendy Underhill. "Provisional ballots." Legisbrief. Vol. 23. No. 32. Aug. 2015. 2 pg. (Provisional ballots are special ballots designed to ensure that all voters have a chance to cast ballots even if their eligibility to vote is uncertain, and after the election, the ballots are investigated to determine if they will be counted.) VF: Election Procedure.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

3. Peters, Phillip G., Jr. "Funding for programs that work: lessons from the federal home visiting program." Journal of Legislation. Vol. 41. No. 2. 2014-15. pg. 224-263. (Congress has created only one major federal program designed to restrict state access to formula based federal funding on the use of a rigorously proven social service model-the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. In this article, the author examines the extent to which this initial effort has succeeded, concluding that Congress can create social service programs that restrict funding to rigorously proven programs, but that doing so will require more demanding proof standards than those created in the current Home Visiting Program.)

CRIME & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

4. "Juvenile Justice Guide Book for Legislators." National Conference of State Legislatures. Nov. 10, 2011. 114 pg. Includes references, glossary and resources. (A juvenile justice guidebook addressing the most important juvenile justice policy issues of the day. This juvenile justice primer highlights significant research, program approaches and gives examples of state legislation, with nine sections that explore juvenile justice reform in the states.) NCSL: Criminal Justice.

5. "Investigation of the St. Louis County Family Court. St. Louis, MO." United States Department of Justice. Civil Rights Division. July 31, 2015. 60 pg. (This report has found that St. Louis Family Court fails to ensure that children appearing for juvenile justice court proceedings receives adequate due process, as well as engages in conduct that violates constitutional guarantee of equal protection under the law.) VF: Juvenile Courts-Missouri.

6. Kim, KiDeuk, et al. "The processing and treatment of mentally ill persons in the criminal justice system. a scan of practice and background analysis." Urban Institute. March 2015. 51 pg. (This report focuses on the societal and economic costs of holding mentally ill offenders in jails and prisons, and also presents a detailed discussion of how mentally ill offenders are processed in the criminal justice system in the different states.) VF: Mentally Ill.
7. "Eyes on crime: police body worn cameras." Law, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. NCSL Legislative Summit, Seattle; Aug. 3-6, 2015. 2 pg. (Among the issues currently being addressed by state lawmakers is the concern about their cost, their impact on privacy, and the appropriate storage and retention of the video evidence they produce.) VF: Police.


11. Williams, Richard. "Addressing mental health in the justice system." Legisbrief. Vol. 23. No. 31. Aug. 2015. 2 pg. (To achieve better results for both systems and individuals, legislators are considering and enacting policies to enhance access to mental health services at multiple stages in the criminal justice system.) VF: Mental Health.


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

13. "GASB mandates tax break transparency." State Policy Reports. Vol. 33. No. 14. July 2015. pg. 6-7. (While the new GASB requirement is unlikely to bring a halt to tax abatement programs, it will subject such programs to greater public scrutiny, and will quantify the extent to which programs can rival the cost of public benefits provided on the spending side of the ledger.)

EDUCATION

14 Weeden, Dustin. "Authorizing higher education across state lines." Legisbrief. Vol. 23. No. 29. Aug. 2015. 2 pg. (Online programs have improved access to a college education and broadened career opportunities for students regardless of location; given this complex new environment, both the state and federal governments have taken action to ensure colleges and universities are authorized by state agencies to provide educational programs.) VF: Education-Higher.

15. Hultin, Suzanne. "Grappling with sexual assaults on campus." Legisbrief. Vol. 23. No. 30. Aug. 2015. 2 pg. (With an estimated 20% of women being sexually assaulted in college, policymakers have become concerned about both the frequency of assaults and how schools are handling them.) VF: Education-Higher.
EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES


HEALTH, WELFARE & SOCIAL SERVICES

18. Peters, Phillip G., Jr. "Funding for programs that work: lessons from the federal home visiting program." *Journal of Legislation*. Vol. 41. no. 2. 2015-15. pg. 224-263. (Congress has created only one major federal program designed to restrict state access to formula based federal funding on the use of a rigorously proven social service model-the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. In this article, the author examines the extent to which this initial effort has succeeded, concluding that Congress can create social service programs that restrict funding to rigorously proven programs, but that doing so will require more demanding proof standards than those created in the current Home Visiting Program.)


20. Tipirneni, Renuka, et al. "Primary care appointment availability for new Medicaid patients increased after Medicaid expansion in Michigan." *Health Affairs*. Vol. 34. No. 8. Aug. 2015. pg.1399-1406. (During a period of rapid coverage expansion in Michigan, the authors find that appointment availability increased 6 percentage points for new Medicaid patients and decreased 2 percentage points for new privately insured patients, compared to availability before the expansion; wait times remained stable for both groups.)


22. Bradford, W. David & Anne Mandich. "Some state vaccination laws contribute to greater exemption rates and disease outbreaks in the United States." *Health Affairs*. Vol. 34. No. 8. Aug. 2015. pg. 1383-1390. (The authors find that exemption law effectiveness index identified 18 states with the most effective laws and nine states with the least effective ones. The most effective states had lower incidences of pertussis, compared to other states.)

23. Williams, Richard. "Addressing mental health in the justice system." *Legisbrief*. Vol. 23. No. 31. Aug. 2015. 2 pg. (To achieve better results for both systems and individuals, legislators are considering and enacting policies to enhance access to mental health services at multiple stages in the criminal justice system.) VF: Mental Health.

INSURANCE

1358-1367. (The findings from the authors suggest that states with prior approval authority and loss ratios requirements constrained health insurance premium increases.)

PENSIONS & RETIREMENT


27. Mathewson, Tara Garcia. "The next pension time bomb." Illinois Issues. Vol. XLI. No. 7. Aug. 2015. pg. 31-34. (Illinois has more than $100 million in pension debt. So far, attempts to fix it have been mostly illegal.)

PRIVACY

28. Clark, Korey. "Data dilemma." Capitol Journal. Vol. XXIII. No. 25. Aug. 17, 2015. pg. 1-3. (Nearly every state in the country has passed a law requiring private or government entities to notify individuals about security breaches involving their personal information; states have been tightening those laws in recent years. Cybersecurity legislation pending in Congress would preempt the state laws and impose regulations that are less restrictive than many of them.)

PRIVITIZATION


REFERENCE

30. The State of Preschool 2014. State Preschool Yearbook. The National Institute for Early Education Research. (This work indicates state pre-K quality standards improved notably in 2013-2014, and several states have made changes in their programs that meet the increased requirements in the Head Start programs.) Ref LB 1140.23.S797 2014.

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

31. Blank, Shane K. "The king's court: demystifying Missouri's governmental immunity doctrines." Journal of the Missouri Bar. Vol. 71. No. 4. July/Aug. 2015. pg. 192-198. (Government tort immunity is an all or nothing game, ordinarily disposing of a case outright when applied. Missouri law is not always clear about how and when a particular doctrine should apply. This article seeks to cut though some of the confusion, detailing how each doctrine works.)

32. "Evidence based policymaking." Pew Charitable Trusts. Nov. 2014. 25 pg. (The Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative has developed a framework that governments can follow to build and support a system of evidence based policymaking. The framework has five key components: program assessment, budget development, implementation oversight, outcome monitoring, and targeted evaluation.) VF: State Government.

34. Ely, Todd L. "Government by advice: public participation and policymaking through advisory ballot measures." *State and Local Government Review*. Vol. 47. No. 2. 2015. pg. 92-101. (Advisory ballot measures are a direct democracy tool that solicits voter opinions. Purposes include solicitation of policy guidance, directing the use of new revenues, and signaling public sentiment to higher level governments. The results provide empirical insight into how governments respond to public participation in policy and management decisions.)


36. Yackee, Susan Webb. "Invisible (and visible) lobbying: the case of the state regulatory policymaking." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. Vol. 15. No. 3. Sept. 2015. pg. 322-344. (Most lobbying is invisible, meaning that interest groups routinely contact government officials "off the public record." The author theorizes that lobbying that employs both invisible and visible tactics is the most influential; when performed in combination it is associated with greater regulatory policy change.)

37. Woods, Neal D. "Separation of powers and the administrative rule review." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. Vol. 15. No. 3. Sept. 2015. pg. 345-365. (Using time series cross section data on state environmental compliance costs, this study investigates the impact that several types of administrative rule review procedures have on the stringency of state environmental regulation.)

38. Boehmke, Frederick J. & Charles R. Shipan. "Oversight capabilities in the states: are professionalized legislatures better at getting what they want?" *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. Vol. 15. No. 3. Sept. 2015. pg. 366-386. (The authors examine whether the actions of agencies reflect the preferences of legislators, and whether legislative professionalism enhances the ability of legislatures to influence executive agencies and obtain more preferred outcomes.)


**TAXATION**

40. "State earned income tax credits." Policy Basics. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Aug. 5, 2015. 3 pg. (26 states and the District of Columbia have created earned income tax credits to help struggling families make ends meet and provide necessities for their children. They offer a hand up to working families, and are easy to administer.) VF: Income Tax-State.

41. "GASB mandates tax break transparency." *State Policy Reports*. Vol. 33. No. 14. July 2015. pg. 6-7. (While the new GASB requirement is unlikely to bring a halt to tax abatement programs, it will subject such programs to greater public scrutiny, and will quantify the extent to which programs can rival the cost of public benefits provided on the spending side of the ledger.)

**TECHNOLOGY ISSUES**

Clark, Korey. "Data dilemma." *Capitol Journal*. Vol. XXIII. No. 25. Aug. 17, 2015. pg. 1-3. (Nearly every state in the country has passed a law requiring private or government entities to notify individuals about security breaches involving their personal information; states have been tightening those laws in recent years. Cybersecurity legislation pending in Congress would preempt the state laws and impose regulations that are less restrictive than many of them.)

**TRANSPORTATION**


**WOMEN & MINORITIES**