AGRICULTURE
“Parts of Midwest hit hard by strain of bird flu; millions of birds and dollars lost to virus.” Stateline Midwest. Vol. 24. No. 5. May 2015. (The majority of farms hit by the virus have been commercial turkey operations, but several large egg layer farms with more than 1 million birds have been impacted.)

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES
"Youth's right to counsel in the Missouri juvenile justice system: is their constitutional right being upheld?” St. Louis University Public Law Review. Vol. XXXIV. No. 1. 2014. pg. 151-180. (This article argues that the current state of the juvenile justice system in Missouri is not providing adequate counsel to juveniles and will continue to be an issue if resources are not given to the juvenile division.)

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

CRIME & CRIMINAL JUSTICE
“Transfer of defense material to law enforcement.” Congressional Digest. Vol. 94. No. 2. Feb. 2015. Pg. 2+ (Overview of the 1033 Program, which transfers such material to federal and state agencies for use, particularly those agencies associated with counter-drug & counter-terrorism activities.)
“Obama administration military surplus program.” Congressional Digest. Vol. 94. No. 2. Feb. 2015. Pg. 4+. (This article details excess military equipment transfers, asset forfeiture, and federal grants.)
“The COPS program and public safety.” Congressional Digest. Vol. 94. No. 2. Feb. 2015. Pg. 6+. (Over the last 20 years. the Office of Community Oriented Policy Services has pioneered crime analysis through funding of the community policing officers, resources, training, and technical assistance. The COPS Office partners with law enforcement, businesses, and other federal agencies to enhance policing activities and outcomes.)
"Are federal programs that provide military equipment to state and local police departments effective?" Congressional Digest. Vol. 94. No. 2. Feb. 2015. pg. 10+. (This "Pro & Con" is taken from a Sept. 9, 2014 hearings before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on Oversight of Federal Programs for Equipping State and Local Law Enforcement.”
"Youth's right to counsel in the Missouri juvenile justice system: is their constitutional right being upheld?” St. Louis University Public Law Review. Vol. XXXIV. No. 1. 2014. pg. 151-180. (This article argues that the current state of the juvenile justice system in Missouri is not providing adequate counsel to juveniles and will continue to be an issue if resources are not given to the juvenile division.)

EDUCATION
Barlow, Sarah E. “Funding public schools: the school aid formula.” First Reading. Vol. 28. No. 3. March 2015. Pg. 1-2. Appendix pg. 3-4. (The basic elements of the Illinois school aid formula are explained, and includes an appendix that illustrates how their formula works.)

ENERGY

"Russell Gold, energy reporter and author.” Interview conducted by Kristy Hartman. State Legislatures. Vol. 41. No. 6. pg. 26-27. (Russell Gold is the author of the book The Boom: How Fracking Ignited the American Energy Revolution and Changed the World; in this interview, he addresses critical the questions of our time: Where will the energy come from to power the world-and what price will we have to pay for it?)

Hartman, Kristy. "Economies of shale." State Legislatures. Vol. 41. No. 6. pg. 28-30. (With the widespread use of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, oil and natural gas resources-previously locked within thick, dense shale and tight sandstone formations-are no longer as expensive to develop.)

ENVIRONMENT


"Should the House pass H.R. 1030, the Secret Science Reform Act?” Congressional Digest. Vol. 94, No. 5. May 2015. pg. 16-31. (The following "Pro & Con" is taken from the March 18, 2015 House floor debate on H.R. 1030, which requires the EPA to base its regulations on unbiased, publicly accessible science that can be verified.)

"Origins of the Environmental Protection Agency.” Congressional Digest. Vol. 94. No. 5. May 2015. pg. 2-5. (History of the beginnings of the EPA under President Nixon which consolidated anti pollution programs into one new independent agency.)

FINANCE & REVENUE


“Managing volatile tax collections in state revenue forecasts.” The Pew Charitable Trusts. March 2015. 16 pg. (This analysis updates a 2011 study and includes findings from a new survey of state officials. It also draws from current literature and interviews with government finance experts and elected officials.) VF: State Finance & Revenue.

“States still struggling. Or not.” State Policy Reports. Vol. 33. No. 9. May 2015. Pg. 2-7. (In light of recent mixed messages on state revenues in the last few weeks, this article seeks to explain and provide data for recent volatility.”

"State budget process quality index.” State Policy Reports. Vol. 33. No. 10. May 2015. pg. 2-7. (Updated index of widely agreed upon measured of good budget practices as reported by the National Association of State Budget Officers.)

HEALTH, WELFARE & SOCIAL SERVICES


"The pros and cons of e-cigarette regulation.” Congressional Digest. Vol. 94. No. 4. April 2015. pg. 10-31. (Should the manufacture and marketing of e-cigarettes be strictly enforced?)

MOTOR VEHICLES
“Race for pole position on state driver’s license app.” Capitol Journal. Vol. XXIII. No. 17. June 8, 2015. Pg. 1-4. (A handful of states are racing to be the first to offer their residents a driver’s license they can load onto their smartphones.)

STATE & FEDERAL RELATIONS
Schultz, David. American Politics in the Age of Ignorance. Why lawmakers choose belief over research. (This book contends that policy making is shrouded in many myths and that policy makers often ignore ample research and evidence when it comes to legislating on a range of issues.) JK 275.S37.2012.

"Origins of the Environmental Protection Agency.” Congressional Digest. Vol. 94. No. 5. May 2015. pg. 2-5. (History of the beginnings of the EPA under President Nixon which consolidated anti pollution programs into one new independent agency.)

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Salsich, Peter W. & Samantha Caluori. "Can St. Louis city and county get back together? Do municipal boundaries matter today?” St. Louis University Public Law Review. Vol. XXXIV. No. 1. 2014. pg. 13-49. (The authors of this article review previous attempts at reconciliation between the city and county, discuss recent examples of cooperation between the city and county, and compare several strategies that have been advanced to respond to the perceived fragmentation of public resources and services in the St. Louis metropolitan area.)

TAXATION

TECHNOLOGY ISSUES
“Race for pole position on state driver’s license app.” Capitol Journal. Vol. XXIII. No. 17. June 8, 2015. Pg. 1-4. (A handful of states are racing to be the first to offer their residents a driver’s license they can load onto their smartphones.)

TOBACCO
The pros and cons of e-cigarette regulation." Congressional Digest. Vol. 94. No. 4. April 2015. pg. 10-31. (Should the manufacture and marketing of e-cigarettes be strictly enforced?)

TRANSPORTATION
"OR test driving Prius tax." Capitol Journal. Vol. XXIII. No. 18. June 15, 2015. pg. 5. (The popularity of hybrid, electric and alternative fuel vehicles may be good for the environment but not for states that rely on gas taxes to fund the maintenance and construction of their roads and bridges. Oregon is about to launch a program that will tax drivers based on how many miles they travel rather than how much gas they use.)

WOMEN & MINORITIES