AGED


CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS


CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

3. Holt, Kevin J. "The inbetweeners: standardizing juveniles and recognizing emerging adulthood for sentencing purposes after Miller." Washington University Law Review. Vol. 92. No. 5. 2015. pg. 1393-1419. (The status of constitutional and criminal law regarding juvenile offenders has been in flux over the last decade and remains so. The most concerning situation is when a juvenile is tried as an adult, or in some cases, must be tried as an adult.)

4. Weyer, Matt. "Engaging families in education." NCSL. June 2015. 5 pg. (Family and community support in a child's education is vital to his or her success, and states are breaking ground in creating policies regarding family engagement.) VF: Education.

CRIME & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

5. Fader-Towe, Hallie & Fred C. Osher. "Improving responses to people with mental illnesses at the pretrial stage. essential elements." Justice Center. Council of State Governments. 2015. 39 pg. (In many communities, people with mental illnesses are being detained longer and at higher rates while awaiting trial. The basis of this report is to outline "essential elements" for responding to people with mental illness and to implement better policies.) VF: Mentally Ill.

6. Heitholt, Vincent K. "Meramec River killing: State v Crocker and Missouri's first foray into the national debate on self defense." Saint Louis University Law Journal. Vol. 59. No. 4. Summer 2015. pg. 1197-1219. (This note categorizes the Paul Dart killing as another episode in a national debate over the justification of self defense, and examines the general history of self defense law and the associated castle doctrine (Part II). It then examines the recent history of Missouri's current law on the "use of deadly force in defense of persons," (Part III.) The note relates Missouri's own expanded self defense law to the more widely studied Stand Your Ground law of Florida (Part IV.) Finally, the note reviews Missouri's expanded self defense law.(Part V).

7. Washam, Liz. "Diffusing deadly situations: how Missouri could effectively remove firearms from the hands of domestic abusers." Saint Louis University Law Journal. Vol. 59. No. 4. Summer 2015. pg. 1221-1247. (This comment argues that the Missouri legislature should amend the current law to enforce firearm restrictions on all respondents subject to orders of protection for domestic violence and permit law enforcement to remove firearms from the hands of those respondents.)

8. Holt, Kevin J. "The inbetweeners: standardizing juveniles and recognizing emerging adulthood for sentencing purposes after Miller." Washington University Law Review. Vol. 92. No. 5. 2015. pg. 1393-1419. (The status of constitutional and criminal law regarding juvenile offenders has been in flux over the last decade and remains so. The most concerning situation is when a juvenile is tried as an adult, or in some cases, must be tried as an adult.)

DRUGS & DRUG TESTING


11. Hanson, Karmen. "Regulating marijuana: a year and a half in." *Legisbrief*. Vol. 23. No. 37. Oct. 2015. 2 pg. (This brief, the first of two, focuses on state regulation, public safety, education and prevention, and who drives the policy.) VF: Marijuana

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

12. "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.)

13. LeRoy, Greg, et al. "Shortchanging small business. how big businesses dominate state economic development incentives." *Good Jobs First*. Oct. 2015. 27 pg. (An analysis of more than 4,200 economic development incentive awards in 14 states finds that large companies received the dominant shares, ranging between 80 and 96 percent of their dollar values. Big businesses overall were awarded 90 percent of the dollars from the programs analyzed, indicating a profound bias against small businesses.) VF: Economic Development.

EDUCATION

14. "Public research universities: changes in state funding." *American Academy of Arts & Sciences*. 2015. 21 pg. (This publication examines state financing of higher education, describes the challenges that state governments face, and assesses the prospects for greater state support in the future.) VF: Education-Higher.

15. Weyer, Matt. "Engaging families in education." *NCSL*. June 2015. 5 pg. (Family and community support in a child's education is vital to his or her success, and states are breaking ground in creating policies regarding family engagement.) VF: Education.

16. Weyer, Matt. "Educating young dual and English language learners." *NCSL*. Sept. 2015. 7 pg. (Research evidence, policy options and state examples are presented to provide legislators and legislative staff with a framework for enhancing the educational outcomes of ELLs-English language learners.) VF: Education.

17. Weyer, Matt. "Early mathematics education. NCSL. May 2015. 6 pg. (In this brief, research evidence, policy options and state examples are presented to provide legislatures with a framework for enhancing early math education.) VF: Education.

18. Heitin, Liana. "Utah tops financial literacy report card." *Education Week*. Vol. 35. No. 9. Oct. 21, 2015. pg. 6. (The state of Utah, as well as the state of Missouri, go above and beyond all others in its efforts to ensure high school students learn financial literacy.)

ENVIRONMENT

FINANCE & REVENUE


HEALTH, WELFARE & SOCIAL SERVICES


22. O'Malley, Monica Watts, et al. "Money follows the person: a 2015 state survey of transitions, services, and costs." The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. Oct. 2015. 23 pg. (There are currently 44 states, including the District of Columbia, participating in the Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration. MFP provides states with enhanced federal Medicaid matching funds for 12 months for each Medicaid beneficiary who transitions from an institution to the community. The current funding allocation is set to expire in 2016, leaving some questions about whether states will be able to continue to offer all of the services that MFP funds if the program is not re-authorized.) VF: Health Services.

23. Golberstein, Ezra, et al. "California's early ACA expansion increased coverage and reduced out of pocket spending for the state's low income population." Health Affairs. Vol. 34. No. 10. Oct. 2015. pg. 1688-1703. (This study demonstrates that the county by county rollout of expanded public insurance coverage in 2011 in California significantly increased coverage, by 7 percentage points, and significantly reduced the likelihood of any family out of pocket medical spending in the previous year, by ten percentage points, among low income adults.)

24. Reiter, Kristin L, et al. "Uncompensated care burden may mean financial vulnerability for rural hospitals in states that did not expand Medicaid." Health Affairs. Vol. 34. No. 10. Oct. 2015. pg. 1721-1729. (The authors find that rural hospitals in nonexpansion states provided more dollars of uncompensated as a percentage of revenues and appeared more financially vulnerable. Policy makers need to formulate strategies for maintaining access to care for rural populations.)


26. Snyder, Laura, et al. "Economic and fiscal trends in expansion and non expansion states: what we know leading up to 2014." The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. Sept. 2015. 32 pg. (This brief, prepared with the Rockefeller Institute of Government, seeks to provide some insight into the underlying economic and fiscal conditions in expansion and non expansion states leading up to 2014.) VF: Medicaid

LEGAL ISSUES


PENSIONS & RETIREMENT

PRIVACY


STATE & FEDERAL RELATIONS


STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

32. "Index of the state economic momentum." *State Policy Reports*. Vol. 33. No. 18. Sept. 2015. pg. 2-7. (The index of state economic momentum ranks states based on their most recent performance on three key measures of economic vitality: personal income growth, employment growth, and population growth. SPR updates the index each quarter.)

33. Lowatcharin, Grichawat & Charles Menifield. Prepared by Kate Olson. "Examining level of county government transparency through the county government web sites." Institute of Public Policy. Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs. Policy Brief. Report no. 09-2015. Sept. 2015. 6 pg. (This brief summarizes research by the authors that examined the impact of internet access as well as other geographic, demographic, socioeconomic and institutional factors on governmental transparency in 816 counties in 12 Midwestern states, while looking at factors that impact website transparency at the county level.)

TAXATION

34. "Utah's gas hike strategy." *Capitol Journal*. Vol. XXIII. No. 31. Oct. 12, 2015. pg. 4-5. (Utah is one of seven states that passed a gas tax increase this year to help with the maintenance of an aging transportation system.)

35. "The holiday tax analysts love to hate." *State Policy Reports*. Vol. 33. Issue 17. Sept. 2015. pg. 2-3. (Tax analysts claim, among other things, that sales tax holidays are poorly targeted—the state forgoes a lot of revenue to benefit only a segment of those taking advantage of the holiday.)

36. "Taxes matter." *State Policy Reports*. Vol. 33. Issue 17. Sept. 2015. pg. 3-8. (The role taxes play in economic development can range from minuscule to significant, depending on the other factors in play. The Tax Foundation recently partnered with KPMG to compare cost of state and local taxes for seven different types of firms in each state.)

37. Mattoon, Richard H. "Sin taxes: the sobering fiscal reality." Chicago Fed Letter. No. 339. 2015. 4 pg. (On April 2, 2015, the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and the Civic Federation held a forum to examine the use and efficacy of so-called sin taxes (taxes on alcohol, tobacco and gambling) levied by state and local governments.)

TRANSPORTATION

38. Utah's gas hike strategy." *Capitol Journal*. Vol. XXIII. No. 31. Oct. 12, 2015. pg. 4-5. (Utah is one of seven states that passed a gas tax increase this year to help with the maintenance of an aging transportation system.)


40. "Federal schmederal. if you want something done....." *State Policy Reports*. Vol. 33. Issue 11. June 2015. pg. 2-6. (While the first half of the year saw an uptick on the state side, traditional solutions such as gas tax increases remain nearly as elusive for state legislators as for federal ones.)
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median salary for women is about 24% less than that of the median male salary—women earn 76% of what men earn. Although this wage disparity has decreased since the 1970s, it reflects the long road to realizing fully equal pay in the workplace.) VF: Women-Legal Status.