Studies in the News
California Research Bureau, California State Library

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Contents this week:

**CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**
Young, poor Californians leaving state, while older, richer moving in

**ECONOMY**
Would progressive taxes reduce inequality by incentivizing movement?

**EDUCATION**
Two reviews of the Every Student Succeeds Act

**EMPLOYMENT**
Call for action to ensure behavioral health workforce meets demand across CA

**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**
Study: Climate change will severely reduce CA’s crops by end of century

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT**
Local government land development rules, not CEQA, behind housing delays
Political climate said to be making Census work challenging
CA counties not spending money collected from mental health tax

**HEALTH**
Rising health care cost for prescription drugs, emergency room visits

**HUMAN SERVICES**
41.6% of CSU students report experience with food insecurity

**RECOMMENDED READING**

**CAPITOL TRIVIA**
In what year did women get the right to vote in California?
CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

http://lao.ca.gov/LAOEconTax/Article/Detail/265

“Between 2007 and 2016, a million more people have left the state than have moved in…. But the patterns of who’s moving in, and who’s moving out, underline some of the social and economic pressure that have made California … so prohibitively expensive…. Families with kids are headed for Texas. Blue-state college graduates are moving in. In other words, California’s experiencing what looks like statewide gentrification…. Due in large part to the state’s housing crisis, California is becoming wealthier and more economically stratified, as more of its citizens find it difficult to make ends meet. Every year, the state falls roughly 100,000 units short of what it needs to keep up with housing demand.” (Curbed, Feb. 27, 2018).

ECONOMY


“Given this inequality in wages across locations, and differences in worker mobility and productivity, what is the impact of the federal income tax?... The answer … is that the current tax structure leads to a ‘moderate’ loss of economic efficiency [but] that reducing the current tax code’s progressivity … would cause a large increase in inequality with no increase in overall worker welfare. Landowners, in contrast, would benefit from a flat tax, reaping benefits as workers move to cities where housing supply responds very little to demand. (San Francisco and Boston are obvious examples where geography and/or regulation restrict the housing market.) '[A] progressive income tax code can reduce between-group welfare inequality without decreasing total worker welfare…. By shifting the distribution of workers toward cities with more elastic housing supply.’ Workers migrate toward cheaper housing; benefits that landowners would reap from a flat tax flow toward workers instead.” (The Region, Jan. 17, 2018).

EDUCATION

https://bellwethereducation.org/publication/independent-review-essa-state-plans

This review of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plans finds that the state plans are mostly “uncreative, unambitious, unclear, or unfinished. This was especially disappointing for states that submitted their plans this fall, whose leaders did not take advantage of the additional time and resources that were made available to them as the result of a later submission date. It’s possible that states may go back and bolster their plans over time, but it does not inspire confidence that states chose not to submit plans that advanced educational opportunities in bold and innovative ways for all students.” California’s plan is praised for “college-ready standards and high-quality, aligned assessments,” but does have weaknesses. The state must: 1) improve its dashboard, described as “complicated and incomplete,” 2) identify how it will combine the dashboard indicators with ways to improve performance and 3) determine how the state will measure individual student growth over time.
Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) allows states to “rethink accountability through multiple measures, continuous improvement and reciprocal accountability.” This means states can develop new accountability models, shifting from “high-stakes decisions on a single indicator of grade-level proficiency, to next generation accountability models that drive toward student mastery of a more meaningful definition of success aligned to the knowledge and skills students truly need to succeed in college, career and civic society.” This report outlines how states can move in this direction: from incorporating personalized learning, to building “competency-based learning environments,” and developing “meaningful qualifications” for high school graduates. The authors highlight states such as Virginia and South Carolina for developing a “profile of a graduate” from their states, as well as California’s Dashboard for its “multiple measures” of school performance.

EMPLOYMENT

https://healthforce.ucsf.edu/sites/healthforce.ucsf.edu/files/publication-pdf/California%E2%80%99s%20Current%20and%20Future%20Behavioral%20Workforce_0.pdf

“California will need to make substantial investments to meet future demand for behavioral health professionals because many behavioral health professionals, particularly psychiatrists and psychologists, will reach retirement age within the next decade. Increasing the supply of professionals who can prescribe psychiatric medications is especially critical because the number of psychiatrists is projected to decrease by 34% between 2016 and 2028. In addition, action is needed to improve the geographic distribution of the behavioral health workforce and training programs in behavioral health fields. In most occupations, action is also needed to increase racial/ethnic diversity and/or the percentage of males in the workforce.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT


“Among the warning signs found in California are increased maximum and decreased minimum temperatures, unpredictable precipitation, reduced snowpack, and a greater frequency of climate emergencies (like droughts and floods)…. Fruits like apricots, peaches, nectarines, and plums have specific cold-weather requirements (at least as they’re grown now). Currently, about 20-45% of the Central Valley is able to support those crops; by the end of the century, only 10% of that same area will be suitable…. For crops requiring even more cold weather, like apples, cherries, and pears? ‘Virtually no areas will remain suitable by 2041-2060.’… Certain locations are more at risk; the Salinas Valley and the San Joaquin Valley looks to be the most vulnerable, while Northern California’s wine country may not be
hit as hard…. Alfalfa yields may actually see an increase.… Other crops, however, like oranges, almonds, and avocados, are likely to see moderate to substantial declines in yield.” (Modern Farmer, Mar. 1, 2018).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/clee/research/land-use/getting-it-right/

“The California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA, a 1970 state law, requires developers to analyze and eliminate a project's effect on the environment before building. While often praised for preservation, CEQA is a continual target for those who argue the law blocks needed housing. The real problem isn’t CEQA, but rather how local governments approve projects…. CEQA only comes into play if a city or county decides to review housing developments individually. If a local government relies on zoning or other processes to determine whether a particular project gets built, developers don’t have to go through the CEQA process….. Doing so … forces developers to learn specific and complex rules for getting almost all projects approved in each city, which drives much of the time, expense and uncertainty over housing.” (Los Angeles Times, Feb. 20, 2018).

https://www2.census.gov/cac/nac/meetings/2017-11/Meyers-NAC-Confidentiality-Presentation.pdf

“The Justice Department is pushing for a question on citizenship to be added to the 2020 census, a move that observers say could depress participation by immigrants who fear that the government could use the information against them…. A recent Census Bureau presentation shows that the political climate is already having an effect on responsiveness to the bureau’s American Community Survey, which asks a more extensive list of questions, including on citizenship status, to about one in 38 households in the country per year. In one case, census interviewers reported, a respondent ‘walked out and left interviewer alone in home during citizenship questions.’” (ProPublica, Dec. 29, 2017).

http://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2017-117.pdf

“California counties are sitting on money from a special tax on millionaires that should be spent on mental health programs, but the state isn’t moving fast enough to reclaim the funds…. [C]ounty mental health programs had stashed $231 million from the tax that should have been returned to the state by the end of the 2015-16 budget year. That's on top of $535 million that counties said they held in reserves for their mental health programs that year…. The funds come from Proposition 63, a 2004 initiative that levies a 1 percent income tax on people who earn $1 million or more in a year. It steadied mental health services during the recession.” (Sacramento Bee, Feb. 28, 2018).
HEALTH

http://www.healthcostinstitute.org/report/

An analysis of spending data by Americans with employer-sponsored insurance from 2012 to 2016 finds that total spending per person in 2016 is growing at faster rates than prior years (4.6% growth in 2016 vs. 4.1% growth in 2015 and about 3% in 2012-2014). This spending growth was mostly due to price increases, particularly those for administered drugs, emergency room visits and surgical hospital admissions. This happens despite utilization of most health care services has remained unchanged or declined over the 2012-2016 period (inpatient services had the largest decline, 12.9%). Prescription drugs utilization remained an exception, as it rose 1.8% for the 2012-2016 period while having the greatest price increase than any other health spending category (24.9%).

HUMAN SERVICES

53 p.
https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/student-success/basic-needs-initiative/Documents/BasicNeedsStudy_phaseII_withAccessibilityComments.pdf

“41.6% of CSU [California State University] students reported food insecurity, of those 20% experienced low food security and 21.6% very low food security. National prevalence rates for food insecurity among U.S. households in 2016 was 12.3%, making the case for college students emerging as a new food insecure population of concern, having a far higher risk of food insecurity than the general U.S. population.... Students who reported food insecurity, homelessness, or both also experienced physical and mental health consequences that were associated with lower academic achievement.”

RECOMMENDED READING

The American Census: A Social History, 1st Edition
By Margo J. Anderson.

Call Number: HA37.U55 A53 1988 (Regular Loan)
Location: Stanley Mosk Building, 914 Capitol Mall, Room 301 (General Collection)

“[H]igh coverage error in the 2020 census could undermine the public’s trust in the census as the nation’s source of information on the size, growth and geographic distribution of the U.S. population. This occurred a century ago, as historian Margo Anderson described in her book, ‘The American Census.’ The 1920 census revealed dramatic shifts in population from rural to urban areas, as large waves of Eastern and Southern European immigrants settled predominantly in American cities. Congress, fearing the political ramifications of these changes, rejected the results of the 1920 census and voted not to redistribute the seats of the House according to the most recent census data.” (The Conversation, Feb. 22, 2018).
Want to borrow this book, but can't make it to the State Library? State government officials and employees with valid state library cards can request books through the California Research Bureau. (See below.) Books and other materials may be picked up at our Capitol Branch Office, Room 5210.

CAPITOL TRIVIA

In honor of Women's History Month:
In what year did women get the right to vote in California?

Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 8 (1911), authored by State Senator Charles W. Bell (R-Pasadena) and approved by voters, granted women suffrage in 1912. Wyoming was the first state or territory to approve full voting rights (all elections) for women in 1869 (confirmed when Wyoming became a state in 1890). The Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was not ratified until 1920.

— Alex Vassar, California State Library Communications Manager and author of "California Lawmaker: The Men and Women of the California State Legislature."

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