CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY
Record number of Californians registered to vote in gubernatorial election

ECONOMY
Understanding the Great Recession through data visualization

EDUCATION
Survey: 85% of college student work; spend more time at job than library

EMPLOYMENT
Tech advances expected to enhance business growth

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
How wildlife recreation on BLM lands contributes to states’ economy, employment

GENERAL GOVERNMENT
LAO: Property Tax Postponement Program provides little benefit as is

HEALTH
Medicaid expansion boosts financial health of low-income Michigan residents

HUMAN SERVICES
Review of tax credit’s role in building affordable housing

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
Ride hailing services have contributed to SF congestion

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY


“As of September 7, there were 19,086,589 Californians registered to vote. This is the highest total number of registered voters heading into a Gubernatorial General Election in state history. 75.81% of [25,176,403] eligible Californians are registered to vote. There are 1,451,713 more registered voters than there were at the same point during the previous Gubernatorial Election cycle (2014).” Since 2014, the percentage of registered Democrats increased from 43.4% to 43.8%, while the percentage of registered Republicans dropped from 28.2% to 24.5%. Registered voters declaring no party preference increased from 23.1% to 26.8%. (Secretary of State Press Office, Oct. 2, 2018).
ECONOMY


“The global financial crisis of 2007-2009 and subsequent Great Recession constituted the worst shocks to the United States economy in generations. Books have been and will be written about the housing bubble and bust, the financial panic that followed, the economic devastation that resulted, and the steps that various arms of the U.S. and foreign governments took to prevent the Great Depression 2.0. But the story can also be told graphically, as these charts aim to do.”

EDUCATION


“Haunted by costly degrees and insurmountable student debt, American college students now spend more time working paid jobs than in lectures, the library or studying at home. The vast majority of current students—85%—work while enrolled, according to an HSBC survey published Thursday. Students spend an average of 4.2 hours a day working paid jobs, which is more than double the time they spend in the library, nearly two hours more than they spend in class and 1.4 hours more time than they spend studying at home.” *(Bloomberg, Sep. 20, 2018)*

EMPLOYMENT


“Four specific technological advances—ubiquitous high-speed mobile internet; artificial intelligence; widespread adoption of big data analytics; and cloud technology—are set to dominate the 2018-2022 period as drivers positively affecting business growth…. By 2022 … 85% of respondents are likely or very likely to have expanded their adoption of user and entity big data analytics…. Nearly 50% of companies expect that automation will lead to some reduction in their full-time workforce by 2022, based on the job profiles of their employee base today…. Within the set of companies surveyed, representing over 15 million workers in total, current estimates would suggest a decline of 0.98 million jobs and a gain of 1.74 million jobs.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT


In California, over 15 million acres are managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management. This report analyzes the economic and employment benefits of recreation on BLM lands. “Participants of hunting, fishing, and wildlife-viewing spent an estimated $88.5 million to partake in their chosen outdoor recreation on BLM lands in California during 2016…. Collectively, hunting, fishing, and wildlife-viewing activities on
BLM lands in California during 2016 supported more than 1,000 jobs providing more than $52.5 million in salaries and generated about $13 million in federal taxes.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

[https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3885](https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3885)

The Property Tax Postponement (PTP) Program acts as a loan program to help qualified homeowners pay their property taxes and stay in their homes. The program has five key advantages and shortcomings in terms of eligibility (inflexible qualifications), participation (only 1,000 participants), affordability (indefinite postponement of debt payments, but high interest rates), budget (no cost to taxpayers) and administration (high admin costs). The low participation and high administrative costs suggest the program is providing little benefit, but a variety of options exist to improve the program, such as changes to eligibility rules.

HEALTH


“Enrollment in Michigan's expanded Medicaid program boosted the finances of many low-income residents as well as their health care status…. The study found drops in unpaid debts, such as medical bills and overdrawn credit cards, as well as fewer bankruptcies and evictions after people enrolled in Healthy Michigan. The program provides health insurance for adults with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level…. [T]he Healthy Michigan Plan reduced their medical bills in collections by an average of 57%, or about $515…. Researchers found a 16% drop in public records for evictions, bankruptcies, wage garnishments and other financial events. Bankruptcies dropped by 10% among the group studied.” ([The Detroit News](https://www.detroitnews.com), Sep. 17, 2018).

HUMAN SERVICES

[https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/98761/lithc_past_achievements_future_challenges_fi nal_2.pdf](https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/98761/lithc_past_achievements_future_challenges_final_2.pdf)

“Despite the housing affordability challenges many low-income renters face, most government resources for preserving and building affordable rental housing have declined. This stagnation in federal housing assistance programs means that the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), which provides a federal income tax credit to private investors in eligible projects, is the primary option for preserving and expanding the supply of affordable rental housing. This report explores why LIHTC is a critical part of the housing safety net. We detail how and why the program has succeeded, the challenges it faces, and why the program is more important than ever.”
Congestion in San Francisco significantly worsened between 2010 and 2016. Based on monitoring data from the SF Transportation Authority's Congestion Management Program, peak arterial speeds decreased by 26% for morning commutes, and by 27% in the evening. On a typical weekday, total vehicle hours of delay increased by 40,000 hours, and vehicle miles travelled increased by over 630,000 miles. “Transportation network companies, or TNCs] accounted for approximately 50% of the change in congestion in San Francisco between 2010 and 2016, as indicated by three congestion measures: vehicle hours of delay, vehicle miles travelled, and average speeds. Employment and population growth—encompassing citywide non-TNC driving activity by residents, local and regional workers, and visitors—are primarily responsible for the remainder of the change in congestion.

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