

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CULTURE & SOCIETY

The Generation Gap and the 2012 Election: Angry Silents, Disengaged Millennials. Pew Research Center. Nov. 2011. 154 p.

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/11-3-11%20Generations%20Release.pdf>

"Not since 1972 has generation played such a significant role in voter preferences as it has in recent elections. Younger people have voted substantially more Democratic in each election since 2004, while older voters have increasingly sided with Republicans in each election since 2006. Analysis...of the attitudes and values of four generations--Millennials, Xers, Boomers and Silents--suggests this pattern may continue in 2012."

ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

Unify, Regionalize, Diversify: An Economic Development Agenda for Nevada. The Brookings Institution, Metropolitan Policy Program, et al. Nov. 2011. 181 p.

http://www.diversifynevada.com/images/uploads/brookings_sri_full_report.pdf

“Commissioned by the state of Nevada, this report finds Nevada needs to upgrade its diffuse economic development system to empower its regions more fully and set a statewide platform for new growth. Building on legislation passed earlier this year to reorganize and elevate the importance of the state's economic development activities, the report calls on the state to unify its operating system for 21st century economic development, support smart sector strategies in the regions, and set a platform for higher-value growth through innovation and global engagement. Seven major industries poised for economic growth also are identified, including clean energy and aerospace and defense.” (*SSTI Weekly Digest*, Nov. 17, 2011).

Policies for Increasing Economic Growth and Employment in 2012 and 2013. Testimony of Douglas W. Elmendorf, Director, before the Committee on the Budget, US Senate. Congressional Budget Office. Nov. 15, 2011. 54 p.

http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/124xx/doc12437/11-15-Outlook_Stimulus_Testimony.pdf

“Concerns that the economic recovery will continue to be slow and protracted have prompted the consideration of fiscal policy actions to spur economic growth and increase employment during the next few years....This testimony assesses the potential impact of a variety of temporary fiscal policy actions that might be considered...in the near term.”

EDUCATION

Career Clusters: Forecasting Demand for High School through College Jobs 2008-2018. By Anthony P. Carnevale, et al. Georgetown University. Nov. 2011. 111 p.

<http://www9.georgetown.edu/grad/gppi/hpi/cew/pdfs/clusters-complete-update1.pdf>

Educational requirements, job demand, and wages through 2018 are forecast for 16 career and technical education (CTE) clusters. Key messages include: jobs for workers with only a high school diploma still exist, but are quickly declining; workers with some college or an AA degree will comprise 29% of all job openings by 2018; a Bachelor's degree or better guarantees access to all clusters; the fastest growing clusters have the highest concentration of postsecondary workers; many of the larger clusters grow slowly and don't pay a living wage; and inclusion of certification-preparation should be part of career-ready education.

Increasing Teacher Diversity: Strategies to Improve the Teacher Workforce. By Saba Bireda, et al. Center for American Progress. Nov. 2011. 44 p.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/11/increasing_teacher_diversity.html

Nationally, minority students make up nearly 41% of the school population while minorities make up only 15% of the teacher population. This is of concern because minority teachers staff low-income, high-need schools more frequently than white teachers. Minority teachers also provide role models for minority students. While the number of minority teachers has increased by 96% over the past 20 years, nearly 20% of minority teachers left the field in 2003-04 alone. States need to increase programs for minority teacher recruitment, increase oversight of teacher training programs, and reduce the cost of becoming a teacher as ways of encouraging more minorities to enter teaching.

ENERGY

2020 Strategic Analysis of Energy Storage in California. By Jessica Intrator, et al. Public Interest Energy Research Program, California Energy Commission. Nov. 2011. 221 p.

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/2011publications/CEC-500-2011-047/CEC-500-2011-047.pdf>

Intermittent renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power, as well as nuclear plants which cannot respond to quick changes in utility demand, will greatly benefit from electric energy storage, increasing their acceptance by electric utilities. This was recognized by the Legislature in the passage of Assembly Bill 2514 (Skinner, Chapter 469, Statutes 2010). This report "assesses current energy storage technologies and the diverse policies affecting deployment in California, outlining critical technology gaps and research needs and policy reforms. It also provides a framework for the Energy Commission, CPUC, and other regulatory agencies."

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature Study. By Richard Muller, et al. Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature.

Draft Reports (Oct. 21, 2011): <http://berkeleyearth.org/resources.php>

The Economist review (Oct. 22, 2011): <http://www.economist.com/node/21533360>

"The most important indicator of global warming, by far, is the land and sea surface temperature record. This has been criticized in several ways, including the choice of stations and the methods for correcting systematic errors. The Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature study sets out to do a new analysis of the surface temperature record in a rigorous manner that addresses this criticism....Our aim is to resolve current criticism of the former temperature analyses, and to prepare an open record that will allow rapid response to further criticism or suggestions. Our results include not only our best estimate for the global temperature change, but estimates of the uncertainties in the record." The main conclusion: existing mean estimates are in the right ballpark.

Land of Risk, Land of Opportunity: Cumulative Environmental Vulnerabilities in California's San Joaquin Valley. By Jonathan London, et al. UC Davis Center for Regional Change. Nov. 2011. 40 p.

http://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/publications/Report_Land_of_Risk_Land_of_Oppportunity.pdf

Based on a three-year study by the UC Davis Center for Regional Change, this report focuses specifically on challenges within the San Joaquin Valley. "It highlights the places and populations in the San Joaquin Valley that are challenged by high levels of environmental hazards and high levels of social vulnerability that can lead to poor health conditions....In particular, the analysis...supports the recommendation that public policies must address these hazards in a coordinated way rather than the segmented approach of the current regulatory system."

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

A Blueprint to Renew California: Report and Recommendations Presented by the Think Long Committee for California. Nicolas Berggruen Institute. Nov. 2011. 24 p.

http://berggruen.org/files/thinklong/2011/blueprint_to_renew_ca.pdf

A bipartisan coalition of former governors, legislative leaders, U.S. secretaries of state, state finance directors, and leaders in business and labor propose a set of structural reforms to "reboot California's dysfunctional democracy." The core of the proposal focuses on local empowerment, an independent citizen's council acting as watchdog for long-term public interests, and a sweeping, sustainable overhaul of California's tax system.

Doing Business 2012: Doing Business in a More Transparent World. The World Bank, et al. 2011. 212 p.

<http://www.doingbusiness.org/~media/FPDKM/Doing%20Business/Documents/Annual-Reports/English/DB12-FullReport.pdf>

Regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it are compared across 183 economies and over time. Regulations affecting 11 areas of the life of a business are covered, including starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting credit, paying taxes, and trading across borders. Quantitative indicators are used to identify what reforms of business regulation have worked, where, and why. Out of 183 economies, the US was deemed the fourth easiest place in the world to do business, unchanged from last year.

HEALTH

"Access to Job-Based Insurance for California Workers and Their Families: The Effect of the Great Recession and Double-Digit Unemployment in California." By Shana Alex Lavarreda, et al. *California Journal of Politics and Policy*, vol. 3, no. 4 (2011) pp. 1-14.

<http://www.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1185&context=cjpp> (Available in the California State Library)

The proportion of employees with no access to job-based coverage through either their own or a spouse's work remained constant from 2007 to 2009, despite the doubling of California's unemployment rate during that time. Among adults with no family access to job-based insurance, the most significant determinants of being uninsured were income and citizenship. Due to more generous public health insurance options, children with the lowest household incomes were not significantly more likely to be uninsured than children with higher household incomes.

HOUSING

Annual Report to Congress: Fiscal Year 2011 Financial Status, FHA Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund. By the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Nov. 15, 2011. 67 p.

<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=FHAMMIFundAnnRptFY11No2.pdf>

"The Federal Housing Administration's cash reserves have fallen so low that there is a 'close to 50%' chance the agency could run out of money and require a taxpayer bailout in the next year. The FHA's perilous state underscores one of the hidden costs of the U.S. government's extraordinary efforts to rescue the housing market. In the past four years, as private lenders have pulled back from the mortgage market, the FHA's market share has swollen. It backed one third of mortgages used to finance home purchases last year, up from around 5% in 2006." (*Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 15, 2011).

About *Studies in the News*

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