

Current Articles & Research Resources, March 22

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In this weekly post, we feature helpful research tools and recent articles of interest to the legislative community.

- Read about what states and the federal government are doing to expand [broadband access](#). (National Conference of State Legislatures, March 2018)
- Review [gender gains and gaps](#) over the last half century in the United States. (Pew Research, March 15, 2018)
- Consider the number of young adults who have ridden in a vehicle with an [impaired driver](#). (National Institutes of Health, March 19, 2018)
- Learn how to change some of your Facebook [privacy settings](#). (Electronic Frontier Foundation, March 19, 2018)

Members of the Texas legislative community may request the articles below [here](#) or by calling 512-463-1252.

- "Truth in advertising." By Mark Walsh. *ABA Journal: The Lawyer's Magazine*, March 2018, pp. 20-21.
Discusses a case pending before the United States Supreme Court that will examine whether a California law aimed at crisis pregnancy centers is a form of compelled speech that violates the First Amendment.
Related information at: <http://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/national-institute-family-life-advocates-v-becerra/>
- "New directions: rethinking career and technical education." By Leslie Trahan. *ATPE News (Association of Texas Professional Educators)*, Spring 2018, pp. 30-34, 42.
Features the Killeen Independent School District Career Center as a case study of the increasingly popular career and technical education [CTE] courses supported by [HB5](#), 83rd Legislature, R. S.
- "Bullets across the border." By Lourdes Medrano. *Christian Science Monitor*, March 19, 2018, pp. 24-30.
Highlights the case of Lonnie Swartz, the first border patrol agent to stand trial for killing someone on Mexican soil. Explains this Arizona case and a similar Texas case could decide the constitutional question of whether non-citizens who are not in the United States are protected by the United States Constitution.
- "Will NRA follow big tobacco's path?" By Peter Grier. *Christian Science Monitor*, March 19, 2018, pp. 18-20.
Compares and contrasts the public health, legislative, and legal debates that occurred over tobacco with the current discussion related to the gun industry and gun violence.
- "Could North Texas' lack of college-educated millennials derail bid for Amazon HQ2?" By Bill Hethcock. *Dallas Business Journal*, March 2, 2018, p. 10.
Highlights a new study that examines the demographic makeup of millennials, where they live, and how they differ on education and poverty across metropolitan areas and states. Notes Dallas-Fort Worth is among the Amazon contenders with the lowest millennial college-completion percentages.
Report at: https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2018-jan_brookings-metro_millennials-a-demographic-bridge-to-americas-diverse-future.pdf
- "Corporate debt in America: on borrowed time." *Economist*, March 10th-16th, 2018, pp. 66, 68.
Reports total debt of American non-financial corporations reached 73.3 percent (when calculated as a percentage of the GDP) in the second quarter of 2017. Notes several industries are particularly vulnerable under their debt loads — retail, energy, and utilities — and could be worse off under new tax reforms and a trade war.
- "The looming trade war: Mr. Trump's misconceptions." *Economist*, March 10th-16th, 2018, pp. 23-26.
Explains why President Trump's legal rationale for proposing tariffs on steel and aluminum imports is undermining the rules-based system of world trade that prevents trade disputes from turning into serious conflicts.
- "Republicans split by Empower Texans influence." By Marice Richter. *Fort Worth Business Press* Feb. 26-March 4, 2018, pp. 24-25.
Considers the conflict between Empower Texans and some Republicans in the Texas Legislature.
- "2017 in review: remote seller nexus and California, Florida, New York and Texas sales-and-use tax on software, digital goods and related products and services." By Todd Faciana, et al. *Journal of State Taxation*, Spring 2018, pp. 15-21.
Highlights sales-and-use tax developments in four states, including Texas. Predicts what sales-and-use taxes will look like for stakeholders in 2018.
Related information at: <http://www.search.txcourts.gov/Case.aspx?cn=03-16-00291-CV&coa=coa03>
- "Credits & incentives update: the silver lining on the hurricane clouds of Harvey, Irma, and Maria." By Tam Vo and Ben Castro. *Journal of State Taxation*, Spring 2018, pp. 13-14, 39-40.
Discusses the Employee Retention Tax Credit [ERTC], which was created as part of the *Disaster Tax Relief and Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2017*
Related information at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3823>
- "Gun-violence restraining orders can save lives." By David French. *National Review*, March 19, 2018, pp. 12-13.
Argues that gun-violence restraining orders [GVRO] are a public policy proposal aimed at stopping mass shootings. Lists the five elements a well-crafted GVRO law should include.
- "In defense of local schools." By Frederick M. Hess and Andy Smarick. *National Review*, March 19, 2018, pp. 20-21.
Discusses the tension between choice and local control in public education, pointing out that in smaller suburban and rural school districts, schools are the hub of communities. Suggests policy solutions should respect and accommodate both community and choice.
- "Education as an American right?" By Julie Underwood. *Phi Delta Kappan*, February 2018, pp. 76-77.
Reviews various court cases such as *Plyer v. Doe*, a case originating in Texas, to show court interpretations of the state's role in providing education. Considers theoretical arguments for a federal constitutional right to education.
- "2017 Tax Reform and Jobs Act: unique challenges." *Public Utilities Fortnightly*, March 2018, pp. 48-49.
Discusses how the *2017 Tax Reform and Jobs Act* will affect the utility industry. Focuses on the electric industry as an example.
Related information at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1>
- "Going to college is selfish." By Bryan Caplan. *Reason*, April 2018, pp. 40-46.
Claims the social benefits don't match the staggering costs that all levels of government are spending on education. Includes a side bar, "a heretical plan for cutting spending on education".
- "Property taxes." By Ryan Salchert. *San Antonio Business Journal*, March 16, 2018, pp. 12-15.
Discusses how real estate owners in Texas are feeling the effects of rising commercial property taxes. Suggests that as property values rise, legacy property ownership and local investment become less viable.
- "Austin Energy program option allows low-income families to participate in solar energy." *Texas Public Power*, January 2018, pp. 8-9.
Discusses a new program, recently approved by the city of Austin, to assist low-income customers pay for locally produced solar power at a discounted rate.
- "Bye Dad, I love you." By Haley Sweetland Edwards. *Time*, March 19, 2018, pp. 34-40.
Illustrates the impact of stringent immigration enforcement on families, particularly children.

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