

## Current Articles & Research Resources, October 17

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

- Read about [rural](#) population growth in recent years. (National Conference of State Legislatures, September 2019)
- Consider the impact of electric [scooters](#). (Council of State Governments, September 2019)
- Explore how Texas' [economy](#) compares with other states. (Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, accessed October 16, 2019)
- Get current information about the upcoming [elections](#). (Texas Secretary of State, accessed October 16, 2019)

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

- "Fort Worth asks: Can a Klan hall become a place of healing?" By Henry Gass. *Christian Science Monitor*, September 30, 2019, pp. 8-9.  
Highlights the move to transform a former Fort Worth Ku Klux Klan hall into a shared community space focusing on dialogue and equity, while also promoting a better understanding of racist events in the city's history.
- "Laboring against discrimination." By Samantha Sokol. *Church & State*, October 2019, pp. 4-5.  
Highlights the United States Department of Labor's [proposed rule](#) that would expand a religious exemption available to taxpayer-funded federal contractors. Surmises the rule would allow religiously-affiliated contractors to claim a religious right when they refuse to hire or fire certain people.
- "Borderline despair: How the U.S. is warehousing asylum-seekers." By Camila DeChalus. *CQ Weekly*, September 30, 2019, pp. 14-19.  
Examines the impact the Migration Protection Protocols [MPP] policy, also known as the Remain in Mexico program, is having on those who are seeking asylum in the United States. Argues these new restrictions on asylum are discouraging migrants from entering the United States legally.
- "Texas: The magenta mammoth." *Economist*, October 5th-11th, 2019, pp. 21-22.  
Considers the prospects of Democrats winning Texas in the 2020 elections.
- "High court case tests faith-based use of tax credits." By Mark Walsh. *Education Week*, October 2, 2019, pp. 1, 10-11.  
Provides background information on the upcoming United States Supreme Court case [Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue](#), which addresses whether groups can receive state tax credits for private school scholarship donations. Suggests the high court's ruling could be significant for K-12 education and potentially affect state constitutional provisions in 37 states.
- "The law and ethics of fetal burial requirements for reproductive health

care." By Dov Fox, I. Glenn Cohen, and Eli Y. Adashi. *JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association)*, October 8, 2019, pp. 1347-1348.

Considers the legal and ethical ramifications of recent and historical fetal burial requirement cases that have been heard by the United States Supreme Court, with *Box v. Planned Parenthood* being the most recent.

- "Patterns of telehealth use among rural Medicaid beneficiaries." By Jean A. Talbot, et al. *Journal of Rural Health*, Summer 2019, pp. 298-307.  
Provides information about telehealth use in 2011, including the prevalence of telehealth use among rural and urban Medicaid beneficiaries, characteristics of telehealth users, reimbursement policies, and unique rural service needs.
- "The danger of being 'endangered.'" By Shawn Regan. *National Review*, September 30, 2019, pp. 21-23.  
Considers *new revisions* to the *Endangered Species Act* regulations, including the restoration of a regulatory distinction between threatened and endangered species. Suggests the new rules will encourage states, landowners, and conservationists to collaborate better on recovery efforts for threatened species.
- "The right to make arms." By Kevin D. Williamson. *National Review*, September 30, 2019, pp. 41-43.  
Discusses the *Remington Arms Co. v. Soto* case, currently before the United States Supreme Court, and the question of whether the *Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act* [PLCAA] exception would stop Connecticut families in their attempt to sue Remington for its Bushmaster rifle advertising.
- "The challenges of economic growth." By M Ray Perryman. *Perryman Report and Texas Letter*, Vol. 36, No. 6, pp. 1-3, 6.  
Quantifies the importance of proactive actions to address challenges associated with the demands of rapid expansion in an area's population and economy. Uses the unprecedented growth in Midland, Texas as a case study.
- "*How one school is tackling the youth vaping epidemic*." By Christine Vestal. *Stateline (Pew Charitable Trusts)*, September 23, 2019, pp. 1-9.  
Reports school administrators are using a combination of strategies to reduce student vaping at South Portland High School in Maine: limiting suspensions, giving students behavioral health assessments, providing alternative ways to socialize, and offering mental health and addiction counseling.
- "An abridged guide to the 86th Texas Legislature for county clerks." By Teresa Keil. *Texas County Progress*, October 2019, pp. 34, 38, 55.  
Lists a dozen bills passed during the 86th Texas Legislature that affect county clerks and how they perform their duties.
- "Moving on." By Amy Lynn Sorrel. *Texas Medicine*, October 2019, p. 48.  
Profiles Representative John Zerwas, MD, highlighting his significant legislation relating to medicine and noting his new role as the University of Texas System's executive vice chancellor for health affairs.

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