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Subject: Immigrant Tuition; Women Veterans; Education Reform; Overtime Rules; Election Data

Issue: 28

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States Face Stalemate in Pension Reform

Last week, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie vetoed two bills that would have addressed the state's beleaguered pension fund, which is facing a funding shortfall of \$37 billion. The situation New Jersey finds itself in is not unique. Other states facing funding shortfalls in their pension programs have struggled to find compromise in the pursuit of reform plans as well, leading to political stalemate, lengthy court battles and increasingly hostile rhetoric.

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From Rucksack to Backpack: Student Veteran Services Aid Transition

Making the move from a battlefield to a college campus can be a difficult, isolating experience for student veterans. That's why the University of Arizona started a Veterans Education and Transition Services Center, or VETS Center, which offers services to improve the college experience of student veterans.

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2014 Midterm Election Survey Released

More voters are registering online, and military and civilian absentee ballot submissions from overseas are on the rise. Those are some of the key findings from a recent report of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, or EAC.

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Trying Times Ahead for Federal, State Government Relations

Federal and state government relations are complicated, and tougher times may be ahead for state legislators as funding for services remains scarce. Three experts discussed the duties, powers and limitations of state governments during a recent CSG eCademy webcast, "How Does the Power Flow in Legislative Branch Federalism?"

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North American Trade Retaliation

In May, the World Trade Organization found the United States' country-of-origin labeling requirements—often referred to as COOL requirements—to be inconsistent with its international obligations. If Congress fails to repeal these requirements, Canada or Mexico may enact retaliatory trade actions valued at more than \$3 billion against various companies across all 50 states.

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Economic Value of College Majors

The combination of states' spending reductions on postsecondary education and rising tuition costs has led to a shift in economic burden from the states and institutions to students. As a result, a growing number of students are pursuing degree programs that yield higher annual salaries following graduation.

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Policymakers Gather to Discuss Postsecondary Education Strategies

State legislators and postsecondary officials came together in July to address new strategies in postsecondary education at the CSG Policy Academy on Innovative Delivery Models in Postsecondary Education as part of the CSG West Annual Meeting in Vail, Colo. Speakers at the policy academy said states are playing an important role in aligning postsecondary curricula with the needs of employers to ensure students are adequately prepared to enter the workforce.

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2015 Border Legislative Conference Dates Announced

The 2015 Border Legislative Conference will convene Sept. 10-11, in the Greater Phoenix area. The Border Legislative Conference, or BLC, is a program administered by CSG West and CSG's Southern Legislative Conference through a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development to provide a mechanism for ongoing dialogue and collaboration between state legislators in the United States and Mexico. For more information about the 2015 BLC, contact Martha Castañeda at mcastaneda@csg.org.

Harm Reduction: Needle-borne Disease and Substance Abuse

Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2 p.m. EDT
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast
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Policy Recommendations to Improve

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The Council of State Governments
2760 Research Park Drive
Lexington, KY 40511

Military and Overseas Voting

Tuesday, Sept. 15

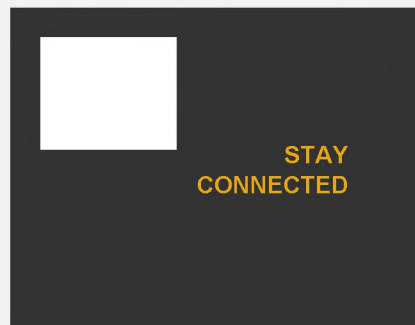
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