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**Subject:** Career Pathways; Highway Trust Fund; Crowdfunding; Same-Sex Marriage

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**Issue: 26**

**August 3, 2015**

#### **States Bolster Career Pathways by Connecting Business, Education**

Many education officials are turning to the business community to spark conversation about regional hiring needs, deficits in worker skills and the training necessary to allow for family-sustaining wages and for continued industry growth.

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#### **10 Questions With Maryland Adjutant General Linda Singh**

Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh serves as the 29th adjutant general of Maryland, where she oversees the daily operations of the Maryland Military Department. She said the leadership skills and global experience garnered through military service gives service members unique skills to bring to the workplace.

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#### **State Transportation Projects and the Federal Highway Trust Fund**

Congress voted last week to approve a three-month extension of spending authority for federal surface transportation programs that also replenishes the Highway Trust Fund through mid-December with an \$8 billion cash infusion. Despite averting a July 31 deadline, after which the U.S. Department of Transportation had said it would stop authorizing payments to states for work on transportation projects, lawmakers failed to

#### **How Does the Power Flow in Legislative Branch Federalism?**

Unfunded mandates. Congressional imposition. The erosion of federalism. These terms often are tossed around as state and federal governments continue to navigate the tricky waters of federal-state relations, particularly in the legislative branch. In the second in a series of three all-star webinars about the state of federalism as it applies to the states and the federal government, CSG will explore the roles of the Congress and

come up with a longer-term solution before the start of their August recess.

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state legislatures, highlighting the inter-workings of congressional and elected state legislators.

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### **Kickstarted: An Overview of Crowdfunding in the U.S.**

The crowdfunding industry in the United States has **expanded rapidly** in the last few years, growing from \$2.7 billion in 2012 to an estimated \$34.4 billion in 2015. This growth has been driven by the expansion of online crowdfunding platforms that facilitate interaction between companies and potential investors. Although the US JOBS Act sought to regulate crowdfunding in 2012, implementation has been slow. State legislatures have filled the gap, creating provisions that regulate intrastate crowdfunding.

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### **Intrastate Equality Crowdfunding Exemptions**

Crowdfunding has been used to finance a vast assortment of projects in recent years, from video games and smart watches to kitchen gadgets and children's television programs. These campaigns generally start with little more than a well-produced YouTube video and a proposal for a product, service or charity event.

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### **Same-Sex Marriage Could Boost State, Local Tax Revenues**

A 2014 **report by the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law** predicts that the legalization of same-sex marriage could have a combined economic impact across all states of \$2.6 billion during the first three years, primarily due to increased spending on weddings by same-sex resident couples and their out-of-state guests. In addition, the report estimates that legalization will boost state and local sales tax revenue by \$184.7 million and support more than 13,000 jobs. The potential economic and fiscal impact varies across states.

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**How Does the Power Flow  
in Legislative Branch Federalism?**

Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2015

2 p.m. EDT

Presented as Part of CSG's FREE Civics  
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**Policy Recommendations to Improve  
Military and Overseas Voting**

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015

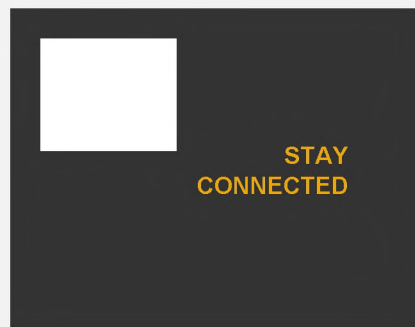
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