

Current Articles and Research Resources, October 26

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

- Review [employment projections](#), largely driven by the health care industry. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, October 24, 2017)
- Look ahead to the expected [winter weather](#) outlook. (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, October 19, 2017)
- Read about EPA Administrator Pruitt's meeting related to [cleanup](#) of the San Jacinto Superfund site. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, October 20, 2017)
- Consider the manufactured home industry's role in providing [affordable housing](#). (Stateline, October 24, 2017)

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

- "Jobs are back, but ..." By Mark Trumbull. *Christian Science Monitor*, October 16, 2017, pp. 24-30. Explains unemployment is down, but in spite of some personal improvement, many workers still experience great anxiety about what their employment future holds.
- "How much gerrymandering is too much?" By Paul Basken. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 20, 2017, p. A19. Interviews Phillip Rocco, a political scientist at Marquette University, regarding the social science research calling attention to efficiency gaps in state redistricting plans.
- "Mr. Bezos goes to Washington." By Carolyn M Proctor. *Dallas Business Journal*, October 13, 2017, pp. 20-21. Discusses Jeff Bezos' growing influence on lawmakers and public policy in Washington, D.C., noting Amazon's increasing lobbying expenditures has placed the company on the top 20 list of biggest lobbying spenders nationwide.
- "Renegotiating NAFTA: preparing for the worst." *Economist*, October 21st-27th, 2017, pp. 69-70. Questions whether the Trump administration is negotiating in good faith, describing the latest set of trade demands as "so extreme that they allow no room for negotiation."
- "Even as schools reopen, storm recovery remains painful." By Marva Hinton and Corey Mitchell. *Education Week*, October 11, 2017, p. 6. Discusses current hurricane recovery efforts of schools in Florida and Texas. Addresses the challenges faced by Aransas County and Port Aransas school districts in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.
- "Watch list: high court, 2017-2018 term." By Mark Walsh. *Education Week*, October 4, 2017, pp. 16-17. Highlights education-related cases the United States Supreme Court will hear in the current term.
- "Gone to Texas: migration." By Kevin McPherson and Bruce Wright. *Fiscal Notes*, October 2017, pp. 1, 3-7.

Explores Texas' migration patterns historically and identifies net domestic migration trends since 2010.

(See: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/fiscal-notes/2017/october/migration.php#article>)

- "Emergency department visits for firearm-related injuries in the United States, 2006-14." By Faiz Gani, Joseph V. Sakran, and Joseph K. Canner. *Health Affairs*, October 2017, pp. 1729-1738. Reports that firearm-related injuries result in an annual financial burden of approximately \$2.8 billion in emergency department and inpatient charges.
- "Freestanding emergency departments preferentially locate in areas with higher household income." By Cedric Dark, Yingying Xu, and Vivian Ho. *Health Affairs*, October 2017, pp. 1712-1719. Finds that freestanding emergency departments are more likely to be in areas that could yield higher profit, rather than areas of high demand. Notes that Texas is the epicenter of the freestanding emergency room movement.
- "Mitigating the mental and physical health consequences of Hurricane Harvey." By James M. Shultz and Sandro Galea. *JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association)*, October 17, 2017, pp. 1437-1438. Highlights the likely long-term health concerns Hurricane Harvey survivors may face and discusses ways Texas could create a recovery and reconstruction plan that strengthens public mental health.
- "Ten steps the federal government should take now to reverse the opioid addiction epidemic." By Andrew Kolodny and Thomas R. Frieden. *JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association)*, October 24/31, 2017, pp. 1537-1538. Suggests ten steps to address the opioid epidemic, broken into two categories: preventing opioid addiction and overdoses and treatment and harm reduction for current users. (See: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1001/jama.2017.14567>)
- "EIA: world energy consumption to increase by 28% by 2040." *Oil and Gas Journal*, October 2, 2017, p. 38. Summarizes the United States Energy Information Administration's latest International Energy Outlook 2017. (Report at: [https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/ieo/pdf/0484\(2017\).pdf](https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/ieo/pdf/0484(2017).pdf))
- "Oil pipeline profits soar, natgas net softens." By Christopher E. Smith. *Oil and Gas Journal*, October 2, 2017, pp. 66-84. Examines the United States' regulated interstate oil and natural gas pipeline system for 2016. Includes analyzed data that are compiled from annual and periodic reports filed with FERC [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission].
- "For teachers, a better kind of pension plan." By Marcus A. Winters. *Phi Delta Kappan*, October 2017, pp. 32-36. Explains the advantages and disadvantages of the widely used defined benefit retirement plans offered to public school teachers.
- "High Texas student loan delinquency rates underscore deeper challenges." By Wenhua Di and Stephanie Gullo. *Southwest Economy (Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas)*, Third Quarter 2017, pp. 14-17. Examines the increase in Texas student loan delinquencies, student and consumer debt levels and patterns, and issues with difficult student loan repayment terms. (See: <https://www.dallasfed.org/~media/documents/research/swe/2017/swe1703e.pdf>)

- "Texas taxes: who bears the burden?" By Jason L. Saving. *Southwest Economy (Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas)*, Third Quarter 2017, pp. 3-7.
Discusses Texas' relatively low per-capita tax burden, carried in large portion by low-income households, and the implications for lawmakers in setting tax policy and delivering state services. (See: <https://www.dallasfed.org/~media/documents/research/swe/2017/swe1703b.pdf>)
- "The audacious launch of the city of Houston: capital of the Republic of Texas." By Stephen C. Cook. *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, October 2017, pp. 122-144.
Presents an adaptation of Texas State Historical Association President Stephen C. Cook's presidential address in March 2017, exploring the founding of the city of Houston in August 1836, Houston's site selection at the confluence of the Buffalo and White Oak Bayous, and its designation as the capital of the Republic. Mentions the devastating flooding in August 2017 due to Hurricane Harvey.
- "Aye for modernizing voting." By Wendy Underhill and Amanda Buchanan. *State Legislatures*, October/November 2017, pp. 26-29.
Summarizes states' policy goals for improving elections and updating aging voting systems.

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