

UC Berkeley

California Journal of Politics and Policy

Title

Editor's Introduction

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1gp3m4s3>

Journal

California Journal of Politics and Policy, 16(1)

Author

Lascher, Edward

Publication Date

2024

DOI

10.5070/P2cjpp16163062

Copyright Information

Copyright 2024 by the author(s). All rights reserved unless otherwise indicated. Contact the author(s) for any necessary permissions. Learn more at <https://escholarship.org/terms>

Editor's Introduction, Winter 2024

We begin with Matthew Lesenyie's original, experimental research about political advertising. The literature in this area is vast, including many experimental studies. However, this work commonly presents voters with limited cues and situations divorced from real world contexts. Lesenyie examines how the interactions among endorsements from real newspapers, campaign finance disclosures, and one-sided political advertisements affect support for actual California ballot propositions. Among other findings, Lesenyie determines that exposure to a credible newspaper endorsement significantly diminishes the impact of opposing political advertising. Lesenyie's study significantly expands our understanding of campaign effects.

Next, we present a series of eight articles about budgetary politics and policy in the western states during the past year. Most of these articles represent significantly updated, revised, and expanded versions of papers presented at the last Western Political Science Association meeting. We are grateful for the continued support from the Association for this research.

The budget articles demonstrate the diversity of fiscal situations facing the states, following the end of a huge infusion of federal funds during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Several states, such as New Mexico and Wyoming, remained in strong fiscal positions through 2023. California is notable for facing the prospect of a large budget deficit to be addressed in the present calendar year. This variance is attributable to such factors as widely divergent revenue bases: New Mexico and Wyoming rely heavily on revenues from taxing extractive industries which have been booming in the most recent years but not before that. By contrast, California relies heavily on income and capital gains taxes which are also highly volatile but do not generally follow the same pattern.

We also see some common themes across states. Places as different as Hawaii, Montana, Oregon, and Washington faced affordable housing challenges that state governments struggled to address in the budgetary process. The numerous references to affordable housing and homelessness in the California article underscore the critical importance of those related issues in the Golden State. Multiple states have tried different approaches to addressing such issues, opening the possibility for cross-state learning. Some familiar political conflicts also cross state lines, such as battles between the interests of the large, urban areas and rural areas (Portland vs. the rest of Oregon; Greater Puget Sound vs. the rest of Washington). Alaska's ongoing experiment with ranked choice voting raises the question of whether electoral reforms might help address such conflicts.

In short, there are interesting lessons that may be drawn from comparing how states approach the perennial challenge of producing a budget.

Acknowledgements

I want to begin by thanking the authors of the present articles which fit well with the stated mission of the CJPP.

Thanks are due to Dean Dianne Hyson, Center for California Studies Director Leonor Ehling, and their staffs for continued support for the journal. We owe a particular debt to Jenna Westbrook-Kline for her skilled copy editing.

The following people served as reviewers for manuscripts submitted in 2023 and early 2022; we are grateful for their assistance (members of the CJPP Editorial Board are designated with italics).

Brian Adams, San Diego State University

Shaun Bowler, University of California, Riverside

Joshua Dyck, University of Massachusetts, Lowell

Stacy Fisher

Lori Freedman, University of California, San Francisco

Wesley Hussey, California State University, Sacramento

Thad Kousser, University of California, San Diego

David Lang, California State University, Sacramento

Seth Masket, University of Denver

Eric McGhee, Public Policy Institute of California

Melissa Michelson, Menlo College

David Slusky, University of Kansas

Renee Van Vechten, University of Redlands

Robert Wassmer, California State University, Sacramento