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Editor's Introduction, Spring 2022

The spring 2022 issue of the CJPP focuses on American state level fiscal policy. Our articles combine policy, political, and economic analysis to examine a host of financial decisions made at the state level.

We begin with Geoffrey Phropheter's evaluation of California's State-County Assessors' Partnership Agreement Program. This was a major grant program designed to enhance property tax revenue by increasing the property tax base. Phropheter's extensive empirical analysis finds little evidence that the effort increased participating counties' tax revenue, but he cautions against ending such experimentation.

We turn next to a set of articles examining budgeting in the western states in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The set begins with Phil Dean's analysis of the huge federal fiscal responses to the pandemic, including large allocations to state and local governments for various purposes. Even those somewhat familiar with these efforts may not appreciate their massive scope. Dean explains the scope in detail while also discussing larger economic effects.

Following Dean's article, we present articles about 2021 budgeting in 11 western states, arranged in alphabetical order by state. These articles represent extensively revised versions of papers given at the 2021 Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, and we are grateful to the WPSA for providing this forum. While budgeting (and budgetary politics) differed sharply across the states, it is striking how much all were affected by the huge infusion of federal funds. As a result, states commonly ended up in a quite different financial situation than anticipated at the start of the pandemic.

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